



Strengthening Agricultural and Nutrition Extension (SANE)

Quarterly Report (Q3) | 1 April – 30 June 2019

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Strengthening Agricultural and Nutrition Extension (SANE) in Malawi

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B. Mandula (2019) Malawi – Charles Seda (in black coat) AEDO from Lower Njolomole ASP in Ntcheu supporting Lead Farmer, Isaac Nyada (in green shirt) reviewing plans for their irrigation scheme with fellow farmers.

The Strengthening Agricultural and Nutrition Extension (SANE) Activity is funded through the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Malawi Mission and specifically the Feed the Future initiative, which works to give families and communities in some of the world's poorest countries the freedom and opportunity to lift themselves out of food insecurity and malnutrition. The Activity was awarded as USAID Cooperative Agreement Award No. AID-612-LA-15-00003 to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as prime implementer. This Activity was made possible by the generous support of the American people through USAID. The contents of this report are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

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Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning	Acronym	Meaning
ACO	Agricultural Communications Officer	DARS	Department of Agricultural Research Services
ADC	Area Development Committee	DC	District Commissioner or District Council
ADD	Agricultural Development Division	DCD	Department of Crop Development
ADRA	Adventist Development and Relief Agency	DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
AEDC	Agricultural Extension Development Coordinator	DCS	Development Communications Specialist (SANE)
AEDO	Agricultural Extension Development Officer	DCT	Development Communications Trust
AES	Agriculture Extension Specialist (SANE)	DDP	District Development Plan
AgDiv	Agricultural Diversification Project	DEC	District Executive Committee
AgNut	Agriculture Nutrition	DIP	Detailed Implementation Plan
AGRESS	Agricultural Gender Roles Extension Support Services	DNCC	District Nutrition Coordinating Committee
AGRESSO	Agriculture Gender Roles Extension Support Services Officer	DNHA	Department of Nutrition, HIV, and AIDS
ANCC	Area Nutrition Coordination Committee	DPD	Director of Planning and Development or Deputy Project Director (SANE)
ANES	Agricultural and Nutrition Extension Specialist (project staff)	DQA	Data Quality Assessment
AOR	Agreement Officer Representative	DSAP	District Strengthening Action Plan
ASFNS	Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy	DSP	District Stakeholder Panel
ASP	Area Stakeholder Panel	EAM	Evangelical Association of Malawi
CADECOM	Catholic Development Commission in Malawi	E-ZOI	Expanded Zone of Influence
CAEO	Chief Agricultural Extension Officer	EMO	Extension Methodologies Officer
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere	EPA	Extension Planning Area
CIP	International Potato Centre	FAMEWS	Fall Armyworm Monitoring and Early Warning System
CISANET	Civil Society Agriculture Network	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
COP	Chief of Party	FAW	Fall Armyworm
CREECOM	Creative Centre for Community Mobilization	FBS	Farmer Business School
CRS	Catholic Relief Services	FFS	Farmer Field School
CSO	Civil Society Organization	FNO	Food and Nutrition Officer
DAC	District Agriculture Committee	FRT	Farm Radio Trust
DADO	District Agriculture Development Officer	FTF	Feed the Future
DAECC	District Agricultural Extension Coordination Committee	FTFMS	Feed the Future Monitoring System
DAES	Department of Agricultural Extension Services	FY	Fiscal Year (USG 1 October to 30 September)
DAESS	District Agricultural Extension Services System	GALS	Gender Action Learning System
DAF	District Agricultural Fair	GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
DAO	District Agriculture Office	GoM	Government of Malawi
		GVH	Group Village Head
		HC4L	Health Communication for Life project
		HES	Health Education Services

Acronym	Meaning	Acronym	Meaning
HHA	Household Approach	NNCC	National Nutrition Coordination Committee
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	OO	Operations Officer (project staff)
IBCTI	Food Security and Nutrition Programme Consultants Inc.	OSP	Oil Seed Products
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology	OSPTWG	Oil Seed Products Technical Working Group
IHF	Integrated Homestead Farming	PD	Project Director (SANE)
LGAP	Local Government Accountability and Performance	PERSUAP	Pesticide Safer Use Action Plan and Compliance
LUANAR	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources	PSC	Personal Services Contract or Project Steering Committee
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation	RTC	Residential Training Centre
MaFAAS	Malawi Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services	SANE	Strengthening Agricultural and Nutrition Extension (FTF)
ME&L	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (SANE)	SCAT	System Capacity Assessment Tool
MEAS	Modernizing Extension and Advisory Services project	SHA	Self Help Africa
MES	Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (SANE)	SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
MISST	Malawi Improved Seed Systems and Technologies (FTF)	STTA	Short-Term Technical Assistance
MoAIWD	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Water Development	SUGAM	Sugarcane Growers Association of Malawi
MoEST	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology	TA	Traditional Authority
MSIKA	Malawi Strengthening Inclusive Markets for Agriculture	TLC	Total Land Care
MTE	Mid-Term Evaluation	ToR	Terms of Reference
NAEASS (NAES)	National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy (old name National Agricultural Extension Strategy)	ToF	Training-of-Facilitators
NACDC	National Agriculture Content Development Committee	ToT	Training-of-Trainers
NAF	National Agricultural Fair	TWG	Technical Working Group
NAIP	National Agricultural Investment Plan	UBALE	United in Building and Advancing Life Expectations Project
NASFAM	National Association of Smallholder Farmers of Malawi	UIUC	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
NCC	Nutrition Coordination Committee	UNICEF	United Nation's Children's' Fund
NES	Nutrition Education Specialist (SANE)	UP	United Purpose
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
		VAC	Village Agricultural Committee
		VDC	Village Development Committee
		WFP	World Food Programme of the United Nations
		WORLEC	Women's Legal Resource Centre
		VNCC	Village Nutrition Coordination Committee
		ZOI	Zone of Influence

Executive Summary

This report highlights achievements for FY 2018/19 Q3 for the Strengthening Agricultural and Nutrition Extension (SANE) Activity. This quarter, SANE continued to focus on its three Result Areas, with more emphasis on expanding impacts to the village and community level through the District Agricultural Extension Services System (DAESS). The following are SANE's key accomplishments in Q3.

Policy and Strategic Planning

The commitment to support dissemination of the National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy (NAEASS) was maintained during the quarter. However, delays in finalizing the approval processes have meant that SANE cannot proceed with its planned activities, such as development of information materials to support dissemination of the Strategy through the DAESS platforms. The Director of the Department of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES) was optimistic that the approval and launch of the Strategy could be completed in Q4.

The Agricultural Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy (ASFNS) experienced similar challenges of delayed approval of the strategy, this despite making significant progress in Q2. The production of informational materials to support dissemination was therefore pended while the approval processes is finalized. SANE's commitment to support the dissemination process to stakeholders in the districts remains.

SANE continued to support representatives of Area Stakeholder Panels (ASPs) and District Stakeholder Panels (DSPs) to attend district-level events in Q3. Participation at these events gives ASP and DSP representatives – who are largely farmers – opportunities to engage with policy-makers, thereby contributing to policies in agriculture and nutrition. Representatives of ASPs and DSPs in Blantyre attended the launch of the five-year (2017-2022) District Development Plan (DDP), which was created through a participatory manner to involve communities. SANE's support of farmer participation helped better incorporate agriculture into the Plan. SANE collaborated with the Blantyre District Agricultural Extension Coordination Committee (DAECC) to create a brochure containing priority agricultural thematic areas in the DDP to aid communities to understand the Plan.

In Lilongwe, the District Stakeholder Panel held its scheduled quarterly meeting in Q3, where strengthening coordination and sustaining activities in the platforms was the main agenda. To improve accountability and adequately support the platforms they represent, the DSP agreed to register the Village Agricultural Committees (VACs) and ASPs, and open a bank account where platforms could save for their own operations. This strategic meeting was a step towards sustainability of the platforms and improving demand-driven services in the future.

SANE also took steps to include farmers in national-level platforms where policy and planning decisions are made. This helps farmers have their voice included in decision-making as they present field-level realities. SANE regularly identifies appropriate national-level events to co-support farmers' attendance. In Q3, the Scaling Up Nutrition event – to which SANE had planned to support DAECC and Nutrition platform members' participation – was postponed by the organizers. In Q4, the annual Extension Week organized by the Malawi Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (MaFAAS) will be another opportunity for SANE and partners to co-support farmer participation.

Coordination and Collaboration

In Q3, SANE continued to support DAECCs to implement prioritized activities as outlined in their District Strengthening Action Plans (DSAPs). All districts conducted DSAP-related activities, such as: (1) orientation of the District Nutrition Coordination Committee (DNCC) on DAESS; (2) rolling out of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to VACs and strengthening coordination activities.

It is important for nutrition coordination platforms and DAESS platform members to understand their complementary roles in supporting households to achieve positive agricultural and nutritional outcomes, but also to strengthen linkages between agriculture and nutrition. Twenty members from DNCC and DAESS attended the orientation and produced an action plan to guide initial activities to improve coordination from the district to community level. Representatives of district level platforms plan to cascade the training to ASPs/Area Nutrition Coordination Committees (ANCCs) and VACs/Village Nutrition Coordination Committees (VNCCs) in Q4 to ensure that understanding of the coordination and linkage of agriculture and nutrition activities reaches communities.

Rolling out SOPs to VACs was a priority activity in the Chikwawa, Dedza, Lilongwe, and Ntcheu DSAPs. Community trainings were conducted for 59 ASPs on the DAESS Guidelines and SOPs, targeting a total of 1651 platform representatives. Since SANE has moved towards a backstopping role to promote sustainability, the trainings were led by the DAESS platforms themselves. The DAECCs provided technical and logistical support to the ASPs, who engaged their VACs and conducted a series of day-long trainings on the SOPs. Topics covered included: composition and functions of VACs, management of meetings, engaging service providers to present aggregated demands, and follow up strategies to hold service providers accountable. In Chikwawa, the training covered all the VACs under the 11 ASPs. In Ntcheu, the DAECC and ASPs trained 242 platform members on the SOPs.

In Dedza, SANE responded to a request by the DSP to include demand aggregation skills and prioritization in its training so the DSP could better carry out some of its crucial roles. In Q3, the 19 DSP members were trained on their roles, managing meetings, resource mobilization, and reporting. The district's Extension Methodologies Officer (EMO), the Chief Agricultural Extension Officer (CAEO) from Lilongwe Agricultural Development Division (ADD), and United Purpose staff were supported to facilitate the training. The participation of the CAEO in the training was crucial, as it provides the impetus for ADDs to support and monitor DAESS strengthening activities in the districts and ensures they are consistent with DAES and ADD objectives.

SANE also conducted joint field visits to bring together multi-stakeholder teams for cross-learning in the districts. DAECC, DNCC, and DSP representatives in Nsanje conducted joint field visits to better understand the work being done by other partners. Similar visits were conducted in Mangochi and involved Jalasi and Nkope ASPs participating in a joint learning event, with support from the DAECC representatives. Five VACs benefitted from the events, with stakeholder mapping and record keeping among the areas of focus during the cross-learning visits. In Q3, Mchinji and Nsanje DAECC commenced preparations for their District Agricultural Fairs. These events help showcase the DAESS, build capacity of farmers, and offer farmers the opportunity to participate in district level policy platforms. The Fairs will be conducted in Q4.

Capacity Building of DAESS Platforms, Extension Workers, and Farmers

In Q3, SANE continued to build capacity within agricultural and nutrition extension. Activities supported state, NGO, private sector, and civil society actors across a range of technical topics.

One such effort engaged DAESS platforms and services providers with a focus on governance and accountability. The provision of demand-driven extension services requires partners to be accountable. Building on similar trainings done in Q2 for Lilongwe and Ntcheu districts, SANE collaborated with the Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET) and the Development Communications Trust (DCT) to conduct trainings on governance and accountability for DAESS representatives in Blantyre district. A total of 49 participants attended the 1.5-day training. The inclusion of Local Government committee members in the training – Agricultural Development Committees – was particularly advantageous in brokering linkages between DAESS and Local Government platforms.

The building of coordination systems and skills is also crucial in ensuring that DAESS platforms are functional. In Q3, Balaka, Lilongwe, and Mangochi DAECC and ASP members participated in pilot DAESS Coordination Skills and Systems Training facilitated by SANE and Balaka's EMO. A total of 30 participants – which included Government extension workers, NGO personnel, and farmers – were trained on skills to improve communication and feedback within and between the platforms. The training should help address weak information-sharing between platforms within DAESS and between DAESS and Local Government.

Activities to support DAESS platforms on Fall Armyworm monitoring and control continued in Q3. During the quarter, SANE collaborated with the Department of Crop Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to train extension workers on the use of the Fall Armyworm Monitoring and Early Warning System (FAMEWS) app, an interactive android-based application that can be used by farmers, community focal persons, and extension workers to record vital data about Fall Armyworm infestations. In total, 185 participants in Chikwawa and Nsanje Districts were trained.

Strengthening Research-Extension Linkages

Promoting effective linkages between research and extension actors remained a key focus area for SANE in Q3. SANE-supported DAESS platforms collaborated with the Department of Research Services' Field Pests and Entomology Unit – located at Bvumbwe Research Station – to conduct a farmer-led assessment of locally-available options for controlling Fall Armyworm. The research protocol was built from farmer input and the process includes farmers at all stages to strengthen linkages between extension and research. Furthermore, this participatory research gives farmers opportunities to contribute to the research agenda but also share local solutions that can help other farmers address Fall Armyworm in Malawi. Learning events will be conducted during the research in Q4 to encourage joint learning between research, extension, and farmers.

Impact and Sustainability

Building sustainability mechanisms is critical for the functionality of the DAESS beyond SANE's involvement. In Q3, SANE continued building the capacity of extension workers, Lead Farmers, and DAESS platforms at multiple levels. At ADD and national levels, SANE also continued to engage key DAES

personnel to participate in or lead activities. In many cases, engaging DAES and the ADDs will allow them to continue SANE's work after the Activity ends, both in SANE districts and non-project areas.

At district and community levels, SANE continues to encourage DAECs, ASPs, and VACs to discuss sustainability of their operations and activities beyond the life of SANE. DAESS platform members are increasingly mobilizing funding and other resources to support their own platform-strengthening and services in their geographic areas.

Progress Towards Targets to Date

In Q3, the Strengthening Agricultural and Nutrition Extension (SANE) Activity made considerable progress towards Performance Monitoring Plan targets for FY2018/19. The summary of achievements against Feed the Future (FTF) standard and SANE custom indicators are highlighted in Table 1. Details of the Activity progress are explained in the following narrative sections by Result area, and Activity-level achievement is summarized in the Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) in Annex 1.

Table 1: Performance Indicator Results

Indicator Type	Performance Indicator	FY2018/19									Comment
		Q1 Target	Q1 Actual	Q2 Target	Q2 Actual	Q3 Target	Q3 Actual	Q4 Target	Annual Target	Annual Actual	
Custom	2.2.1. Number of individuals who have received SANE-supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training	2000	1503	2200	2332	2700	2021	1000	7900	5856	SANE held several trainings in Q3, including: (1) DAESS Guidelines and SOPs; (2) Fall Armyworm research protocols; and (3) governance and accountability within DAESS. Most of these activities were TOTs at district level. In Q4, these will lead to more community-level trainings involving VAC representatives and farmers, and therefore higher numbers. SANE also began its video-based extension work, which was delayed, and will produce numbers for this indicator in Q4 instead. Disaggregation
	Type of Individual										
	Producer	1858	1165	2000	2128	2500	1795	892	7250	5088	
	Male	929	677	1000	1220	1250	1098	446	3625	2995	
	Female	929	488	1000	908	1250	697	446	3625	2093	
	People in Government	84	324	160	173	160	212	80	484	709	
	Male	42	235	80	106	80	145	40	242	486	
	Female	42	89	80	67	80	67	40	242	223	
	People in Private sector	12	2	10	6	10	1	8	40	9	
	Male	6	1	5	2	5	1	4	20	4	
	Female	6	1	5	4	5	0	4	20	5	
	People in Civil Society	46	12	30	25	30	13	20	126	50	
	Male	23	10	15	18	15	11	10	63	39	
	Female	23	2	15	7	15	2	10	63	11	

Indicator Type	Performance Indicator	FY2018/19									Comment
		Q1 Target	Q1 Actual	Q2 Target	Q2 Actual	Q3 Target	Q3 Actual	Q4 Target	Annual Target	Annual Actual	
											gaps, such as gender balance and private sector/civil society engagement, will be addressed with targeted activities in Q4.
Standard	2.2.2. Number of individuals receiving nutrition-related professional training through SANE-supported programs (HL.9-4)	250	244	500	0	500	589	250	1500	833	SANE facilitated IHF-HHA trainings with ASPs, ANCCs, VACs, and VNCCs. Targeted activities such as the work with SUGAM will increase these numbers in Q4. Similar gender balance issues arose among these platforms, which are predominately male. SANE is working with DAESS platforms to increase female representation in the platforms themselves and their activities, and the percentage of females is increasing.
	Sex										
	Male	125	161	250	0	250	325	125	750	486	
	Female	125	83	250	0	250	264	125	750	347	
	Training Type										
	Non-degree-seeking trainees	250	244	500	0	500	589	250	1500	833	
Standard	2.2.3. Number of individuals participating in USG food Security	2400	1747	2700	2332	3050	2610	1100	9250	6689	The indicator counts training participants as reported in

Indicator Type	Performance Indicator	FY2018/19									Comment
		Q1 Target	Q1 Actual	Q2 Target	Q2 Actual	Q3 Target	Q3 Actual	Q4 Target	Annual Target	Annual Actual	
	program (EG.3.2)										indicator 2.2.1 and 2.2.2.
	Sex										
	Male	1200	1086	1350	1346	1525	1580	550	4625	4012	
	Female	1200	661	1350	986	1525	1030	550	4625	2677	
	Age										
	<30	240	16	270	472	305	467	165	980	955	
	>30	2160	1,102	2430	1741	2745	2083	935	8270	4926	
	Disaggregates not available	0	629	0	119	0	60	0	0	808	
	Type of Individual										
	People in Government	108	425	190	173	190	363	86	574	961	
	People in Civil Society	54	19	40	25	40	32	22	156	76	
	People in private sector	16	6	15	6	15	4	9	55	16	
	Producers Smallholder	2222	1297	2455	2128	2805	2211	983	8465	5636	
Custom	3.1.1 Number of formal Service Agreements established between extension service providers and institutions responsible for agricultural and nutrition research	8	4	2	1	0	0	0	10	5	After finalization of the FAW research protocol, SANE facilitated the development of Service Agreements between ASPs, DAECCs, and Bvumbwe Research Station, through their Entomology Department. These will be signed in Q4 after their translation into Chichewa. This will enable SANE to reach the annual target.

Indicator Type	Performance Indicator	FY2018/19									Comment
		Q1 Target	Q1 Actual	Q2 Target	Q2 Actual	Q3 Target	Q3 Actual	Q4 Target	Annual Target	Annual Actual	
Custom	3.1.2 Number of field-based learning exchanges organized by research actors for extension service providers and farmers	50	0	20	42	20	7	10	100	49	Field-based learning activities were conducted with Bvumbwe Research Station and VACs in seven sites across the districts participating in the FAW research trials in Q3. These will scale up in Q4 to meet the annual target.
Custom	3.1.3 Number of research protocols that incorporate farmers' involvement in research design and implementation	6	5	0	0	0	1	0	6	6	In Q3, SANE collaborated with Bvumbwe Research Station to develop a research protocol to assessing local options for controlling FAW.

Introduction

The Feed the Future (FTF) Malawi Strengthening Agricultural and Nutrition Extension Activity (hereafter referred to as the “Activity” or SANE) was developed to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Malawi’s Department of Agricultural Extension Services (DAES) to mobilize and work with service providers to deliver agricultural and nutrition extension services more effectively and in a coordinated manner in the Feed the Future Expanded Zone of Influence (E-ZOI). The need for SANE arose from two studies conducted by the Modernizing Extension and Advisory Services (MEAS) project of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) in 2012-2014. The Activity is a cooperative agreement award (No. AID-OAA-L-10-0003) between the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Malawi, with implementation from November 2015 to November 2020. UIUC is the lead institution, with Catholic Relief Services Malawi (CRS) as a sub-awardee. The Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Water Development (MoAIWD)’s Department of Agricultural Extension Services is the key Government partner.



Figure 1: USAID/Malawi Zone of Influence

The Activity has three key objectives:

1. Improve the policy environment, focused on government, donor, and Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) working relationships and how agriculture and nutrition gaps can be addressed by improved extension services through knowledge sharing;
2. Strengthen the coordination and capacities of extension service providers through building networks of decision-makers, implementers, and experts committed to addressing agriculture and nutrition through extension services while also increasing the knowledge and skills of field-level extensionists through appropriate training; and
3. Increase connections between research institutions and extension service providers through addressing communication and knowledge gaps and facilitating networks across both entities.

The Activity operates in the 10 districts that form USAID/Malawi’s FTF E-ZOI. The districts are: Mchinji, Lilongwe rural, Dedza, Ntcheu, Balaka, Machinga, Mangochi, Blantyre rural, Chikwawa, and Nsanje.

SANE’s approach works to build organizational, system, and human capacity to provide better service access and quality, strengthen farmer voice through empowerment, and promote coordination and collaboration so that agricultural and nutritional outcomes are enhanced. Efforts focus heavily on strengthening the District Agricultural Extension Services System (DAESS). DAESS uses an Agricultural Innovation Systems approach and relies on the support of diverse stakeholders to function properly. DAESS has platforms for stakeholder engagement at village, Area, and district levels, namely the Village

Agricultural Committees (VACs), Area Stakeholder Panels (ASPs), District Stakeholder Panels (DSPs), District Agricultural Extension Coordinating Committees (DAECCs), and District Agriculture Committees (DACs), where communities identify key needs and hold service providers accountable for addressing them.

The following section describes the progress made in Q2 towards implementation of the FY2018/19 Annual Work Plan. Further details on achievements are included in the Detailed Implementation Plan found in the Annexes section. Challenges encountered and solutions found are also discussed in the report.

0.0. Activity Management

0.1. Personnel

The SANE staff team increased by one person with the on-boarding of the Development Communication Specialist (DCS) in Q3. The staff team as reported in Q2 was maintained, namely the Chief of Party (COP), four technical specialists – the Nutrition Education Specialist (NES), Agricultural Extension Specialist (AES), Agricultural and Nutrition Extension Specialist (ANES), and Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (MES) – and the Operations Officer. Additional support was also provided from Illinois-based personnel, namely the Project Director (PD), Deputy Project Director (DPD), and Research Specialists.

Increased field activities in Q3 also necessitated the hiring of a Finance Assistant – on temporary basis – to speed up liquidating financial transactions. The job description was prepared and the post was internally advertised within CRS during the quarter. Selection of a potential candidate and on-boarding will be completed in Q4.

0.2. Activity oversight

The Activity continued to receive oversight from the USAID/Malawi Agreement Officer Representative (AOR) through phone calls, email communication, and bi-weekly meetings with the COP. The University of Illinois-based project managers also provided oversight during the quarter. Meetings were held with the Director of DAES to coordinate on the following activities: (1) dissemination of the two Strategies, the Agricultural Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy (ASFNS) and the National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy (NAEASS); (2) video-based extension messaging; and (3) testing of the Extension Helper App.

Hold Project Steering Committee (PSC) meetings

No PSC meeting was conducted during the quarter. However, preparations have commenced for a field visit in Q4 for the PSC members to engage with SANE activities.

0.3. Work planning

In Q2, SANE revised and re-submitted its FY 2018/19 Annual Work Plan, which incorporated the recommendations highlighted in the Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE) report. Greater emphasis was placed on building the capacity of the community-level platforms (VACs), engaging ADDs more closely in SANE activities, and promoting sustainability and the Activity's exit strategy by identifying and engaging

champions to sustain the DAESS. With support from USAID/Malawi, SANE also updated the targets for FY 2018/19 in DevResults and Feed the Future Monitoring System (FTFMS). The Work Plan was approved by USAID during Q2 and will continue to guide implementation of activities in the reporting year. No modifications were made to this plan during Q3.

Integration Plan

SANE collaborates with several Implementing Partners as part of its FY2018/19 Integration Plan. The summary of progress is discussed below and further details are in Annex 2.

1. Local Government Accountability Performance (LGAP)

SANE overlaps with LGAP in 4 districts (Balaka, Blantyre, Lilongwe, and Machinga). SANE and LGAP are working to improve collaboration between DAESS and Local Government, specifically to strengthen the functionality of and collaboration between their respective platforms. In Q3, representatives from Blantyre's DAEC, DNCC, and all ASPs and Area Development Committees (ADCs) were trained on governance and accountability through collaborative efforts of SANE, CISANET, and the Development Communication Trust¹. It is expected that the trainings will build DAESS and Local Government platforms' capacity to hold service providers accountable, thereby facilitating provision of quality extension services.

In Q3, LGAP facilitated a workshop for stakeholders to share experiences in implementing by-laws by various platforms that coordinate development services in the districts². Lessons from the workshop will help SANE to competently support efforts by DAESS platforms in development and enforcement of their own by-laws and to help assure adherence by members.

In Q4, SANE-LGAP integration efforts will focus on training DAESS platforms and other relevant coordination committees on governance and accountability in Balaka and Machinga districts. During the ASP-level trainings, Area Development Plans will also be disseminated to VAC representatives. SANE and LGAP will make efforts to share the integration plans with District Executive Committees (DECs) during their monthly meetings beginning with Lilongwe.

2. Health Communication for Life (HC4L)

SANE, HC4L, and Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) partnered to hold a three-day workshop with 22 participants³ from the Agriculture-Nutrition (AgNut) Technical Working Group (TWG). The work was designed to harmonize Integrated Homestead Farming (IHF) programs being conducted by nine key partners⁴ and to develop a draft Standard of Practice for developing AgNut materials.

¹ Blantyre-based Civil Society Organization contracted by LGAP

² Balaka, Blantyre, Kasungu, Lilongwe, Machinga, Mulanje, Mzimba, and Zomba

³ 9 female and 13 male; 9 from Government, 2 from Universities, and 11 from NGOs; 12 nutrition-focused, 2 agriculture-focused, and 8 communications-focused

⁴ HC4L, CARE, LUANAR, United Purpose, Afikepo (DNHA, UNICEF, FAO), Kulima (MoAIWD, FAO), DARS, Self Help Africa, Action Aid, Plan International, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, Evangelical Association of Malawi, World Food Programme, SANE, and MoAIWD.

The purpose of the Standard is to assure all AgNut materials meet minimum quality standards and are known and accessible by all partners for high-quality extension services.

During the workshop, the Health Education Services (HES) shared their experience from working with HC4L on a continuous quality improvement system and SANE shared information available from the 2016 National Agricultural Content Development Committee (NACDC). By the end of the workshop, the agreed draft Standard of Practice (Box 1) was used to review three IHF-related frontline extension worker materials: (1) the simplified IHF guide in Chichewa; (2) a guide for conducting food and nutrition demonstrations; and (3) a six-food group facilitation tool for teaching about budgeting, planning, and consumption.

Following the workshop, SANE and HC4L discussed the draft AgNut Materials Development Standard of Practice with DAES for clarification, and agreed to request the NACDC – chaired by Farm Radio Trust – to meet in Q4 so that all partners are aware of NACDC and when it should be used.

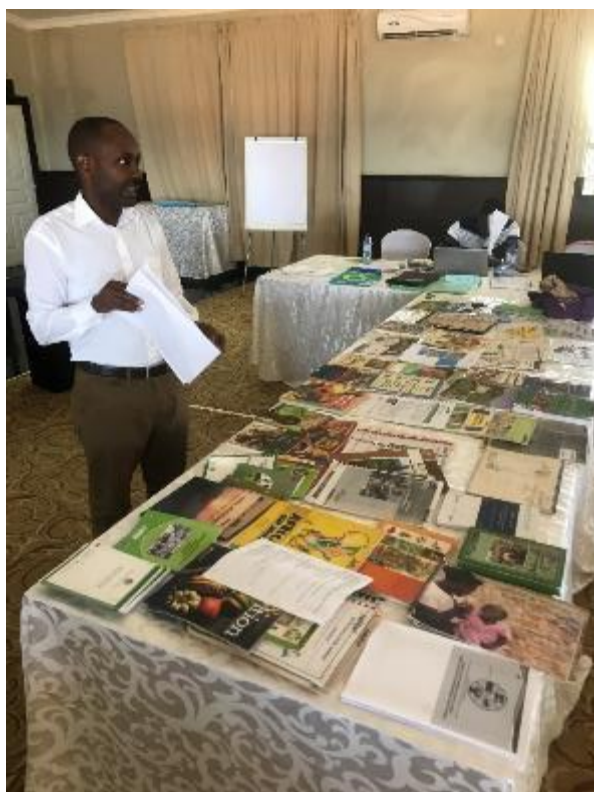


Figure 2: HC4L Chief of Party Amos Zikusooka describing the processes they've developed with the Health Education Services to develop high quality materials

Box 1: Draft Standard of Practice for developing AgNut materials:

- 1) Consult with AgNut TWG
- 2) Create a taskforce to work on developing a concept based on 8 steps:

STEP 1: Evidence gathering and problem identification

STEP 2: Message development

STEP 3: Decide on the materials to develop

STEP 4: Draft the material based on 7 Cs of Effective Communication

[<https://www.thecompassforsbc.org/how-to-guides/how-design-sbcc-messages>]

STEP 5: Pretest draft materials

STEP 6: Validation and production

STEP 7: Dissemination plan

STEP 8: Monitoring and Evaluation for continuous Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement

- 3) Present concept to AgNut TWG
- 4) Work on the concept (implement the 8 steps of materials development)
- 5) Update AgNut TWG on progress each meeting
- 6) Document process / lessons learned
- 7) Finalize materials through AgNut TWG

Add finalized materials and report to the database and electronic repository

3. Agricultural Diversification (AgDiv)

In Q3, SANE and AgDiv discussed SANE's (and DAESS') role in AgDiv nutrition and gender activities. For nutrition, AgDiv works with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who then work primarily with the Nutrition Coordinating Committees (NCCs). Since the AgDiv nutrition activities are largely agricultural production⁵ and processing and Integrated Homestead Farming, they should be coordinated by DAESS platforms who should then coordinate with NCCs as appropriate. As such, SANE is working with AgDiv partners Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Total Land Care (TLC), United Purpose (UP), the Women's Legal Resource Centre (WORLEC), and Permaculture designers working on IHF to identify the Traditional Authorities (TAs) and Group Village Heads (GVHs) where the AgDiv-AgNut activities are taking place to link them to their DAESS platforms and clarify roles. This should help to sustain and spread the activities beyond both projects.

Otherwise, AgDiv has decided not to be involved in the review and development of AgNut materials and this will be removed from the integration plan.

For gender, AgDiv plans to work with NGOs on the Gender Action Learning System (GALS), which was a precursor to the Malawi Household Approach (HHA). SANE will continue to reach out to AgDiv in Q4 to link GALS to HHA through DAESS platforms to assure that gender is well-coordinated in agricultural programming.

4. Malawi Strengthening Inclusive Markets for Agriculture (MSIKA)

No collaborative activity was done with MSIKA in Q3. Learning events are planned for Q4.

5. United in Advancing and Building Life Expectations (UBALE)

Implementation of activities under the UBALE program phased out in Q2. However, SANE continued to train frontline staff in Fall Armyworm (FAW) monitoring using mobile phone-based applications. In collaboration with the Department of Crop Development (DCD) and FAO, SANE facilitated district- and ASP-level trainings on FAW monitoring using the FAMEWS App for extension workers who received android tablets from the UBALE program. The trainings were conducted for all extension staff in Chikwawa and Nsanje districts. In Q4, SANE will continue to pursue this commitment by conducting similar training sessions in Blantyre district.

6. Malawi Improved Seed Systems and Technologies (MISST)

Implementation of activities under the MISST program phased out towards the end of Q3. Over its 4.5 years of implementation, MISST released 15 maize, dryland cereal, and orange-fleshed sweet potato (OFSP) varieties in collaboration with seed companies, and the Aflasafe technology to reduce toxins in maize and groundnuts.

SANE attended the closeout workshop for MISST in Q3. During this event, MISST called on seed companies to engage in partnerships that will support the popularization of the new seed technologies. Workshop participants emphasized the need for smallholder farmers to participate in seed production and marketing to improve participatory varietal selection and access to improved seed. This presents an

⁵ Soybean and Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP)

opportunity to ASPs and VACs to collaborate with the seed companies to host demonstrations on the released technologies and participate in seed system activities, which SANE will seek to mobilize.

Moving forwards, SANE will continue with learning events on nutrition based on MISST-promoted crops. The Nutrition Department at the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Natural Resources College (LUANAR-NRC) has been engaged to support implementation of learning events on nutrition, food processing, and utilization with ASPs in Q4.

0.4. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

Mid-Term Evaluation report

In Q3, discussions on the MTE report prepared by the International Business Technical Consultants Inc. (IBCTI) continued. SANE provided feedback on areas that it felt were weaknesses or misrepresentations in the report. Some of the main issues related to limited time conducting interviews and then generalizing broadly beyond the sample, misunderstandings of some SANE activities and USAID's involvement in shaping them, and lack of clarity of responsibility in the recommendations, some of which were beyond SANE's mandate.

A meeting was convened by USAID/Malawi to resolve the issues and find a way forward on the report. SANE, IBCTI, and USAID/Malawi representatives agreed that SANE provide comments using track changes and make suggestions on areas where the language in the report should be changed by the authors. SANE submitted the report as agreed and the final report from IBCTI is anticipated in Q4.

Data Quality Assessment

Conducting a Data Quality Assessment (DQA) is essential in identifying incorrect data, estimating the impact on the Activity's implementation process, and implementing corrective action. In Q3, USAID/Malawi continued with its DQA in five districts⁶. The Assessment team interacted with DAECC members in all the districts to determine how data used by the Activity was generated by local partners. Data quality is enforced differently amongst the districts. Although the Assessment Team is yet to share the activity report which will highlight the corrective actions, notable issues included: lack of standardized attendance registration forms for trainings and events; participants not completing the attendance registration forms; and data insecurity due to officers sharing computers. The districts thanked the Assessment team for the visit and indicated a willingness to improve their data management practices.

"This is a very important exercise. The issues discussed here are the best practices that are expected everywhere, be it in a government office or not. Laxity has taken center stage in our operations. We promise to improve so that the quality of data is assured."

Chikwawa DAECC Secretary.

⁶ Balaka Chikwawa, Dedza, Lilongwe, and Ntcheu

Implementation of Monitoring and Evaluation Efforts

Learning is paramount in SANE, as it informs the design and implementation of activities. In Q3, SANE continued with the learning activities planned for FY2018/2019.

Assessing the field-level impacts and adoption potential of local Fall Armyworm treatments: SANE is collaborating with Bvumbwe Research Station to assess the effectiveness and potential of local methods used to control the FAW. Main collaborators are farmers representing ASPs and VACs in selected irrigation schemes in Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mangochi, Nsanje, and Ntcheu. Land will be provided and managed by the ASPs themselves, so that interaction with researchers and resulting knowledge can be shared with VACs and communities. Implementation of the study started in Q3 and activities implemented so far include development of the research protocol, plot layout, and planting of the actual trials. Refer to the Result 3 section below for more details.

Assessing the Household Approach and household level impacts: Preparation for the training on gender and HHA with Sugarcane Growers Association of Malawi (SUGAM) extension workers continued in Q3 with preparations for collecting baseline data. SANE assembled a team of enumerators and developed a questionnaire which was pre-tested in readiness for data collection. The baseline data collection and training are planned for Q4.

Assessment of household decision-making using HHA: During the quarter, SANE continued working with Lilongwe West district and LUANAR to evaluate household decision-making and empowerment using HHA. The objective of the study will be to assess whether or not family vision can stimulate household members to seek advisory services for improved household food and nutrition security. Revision of the research proposal was finalized. Presentation to the research committee at LUANAR should be done in Q4, with fieldwork commencing soon after.

Systems Capacity Assessment Survey: The Activity's annual Systems Capacity Assessment Tool (SCAT) survey progressed in Q3 with data collection in all Extended Zone of Influence districts⁷. In Q4, the survey team will collect data in 10 non-SANE districts⁸, which were randomly selected within each ADD. The same districts were also assessed in FY2017/2018 to provide counterfactual evidence to the findings in SANE districts. The results of the assessment will contribute to informing SANE's close-down activities in 2020 and recommendations for future efforts of strengthening DAESS platforms.

Upon completion of the Y4 assessment, SANE will create briefs and District Summaries, and disseminate to stakeholders both at national and district level.

"I didn't get surprised with the results because we were not trained on how to run the committee."

Emily Naphivu, Thukuta ASP, Thyolo, on receiving results from the SCATs

"We have participated in studies previously but no one provides feedback. Thanks SANE for this kind of arrangement. We really appreciate [receiving the District Summaries] because this will help us better improve how we manage our ASP."

Stanford Tsoka, Tamani ASP Chairperson, Phalombe District

⁷ SCAT targeted all DAECCs, DSPs, and a sample of 92 ASPs.

⁸ Dowa, Karonga, Kasungu, Mwanza, Nkhatabay, Nkhotakota, Phalombe, Rumphi, Thyolo, and Zomba

Previously, SANE prepared SCAT District Summaries from the Y3 data. These reports were translated and shared with all the participating DAESS platforms participating in the Y4 SCATs. Responses from the platforms were overwhelmingly positive, as they felt the data helped them track progress and improve their performance. These Summaries from the Y4 data will also inform SANE's FY2019/20 Annual Work Plan development



Figure 3: Mwazisi ASP members in Rumphi discussing the FY18 SCAT results

0.5. Reporting

The Q2 Quarterly Report was prepared and submitted to USAID/Malawi on schedule. The AOR provided feedback to the COP on areas for clarification. The revised report was submitted for formal approval.

0.6. Communications

SANE takes steps to share progress and results with extension stakeholders of all types. For example, in Q3, the SCAT District Summaries were shared with all DAESS platforms in the Activity's districts. This was done after conducting the interviews for Y4 SCATs. DAESS platform representatives appreciated the initiative to share the results of the assessment and will use the findings in their own operations.

During the quarter, SANE also continued to develop success stories that document efforts and impacts in the field. A field visit was conducted to gather experiences from DAECCs, ASPs, and VACs in Blantyre, Mangochi, and Nsanje on what makes their platforms functional and what challenges remain. Feedback was turned into a compilation of success stories which can be disseminated to key partners and stakeholders in Q4. These success stories are also found in Annex 4.

On request from DAES, SANE also contributed two articles for the DAES newsletter to be published in Q4. One of the articles described the eight key principles of Permaculture for Agriculture, while the second focused on Nutrition beginning with Agriculture and their inherent linkages. The articles will help reinforce messages of environment and nutrition in Agriculture and position SANE as an expert on Agriculture-Nutrition extension topics.

Working relationships with partners

1. Department of Nutrition, HIV, and AIDS (DNHA)

SANE handed over the nutrition communication system it helped build – database and Google groups – to DNHA staff in Q2. In Q3, DNHA utilized the nutrition communication system to plan a Nutrition joint monitoring exercise, which took place with four teams covering 16 districts. SANE reviewed and provided guidance on the planning documents and took part in the team that visited Machinga district.

The team visited a School Health and Nutrition site which is attempting to model agricultural best practices. Very little guidance was being provided to the school by agricultural extension personnel, so the school was struggling to make good decisions. This represents a missed opportunity, as working with schools can allow agricultural extension to help youth develop skills and knowledge to change attitudes towards farming in their families and communities.

As an alternative, SANE recommended that parents – as members of ASPs and VACs in the area – visit the school periodically and share what they learned through extension, to help it become a model.

While the nutrition communication handover has appeared successful, only one staff member seems to be managing the systems at DNHA, which is risky for sustainability. SANE will help DNHA institutionalize the system in Q4 and moving forwards, so that all stakeholders receive and provide timely updates. Institutionalization of the system requires: (1) documenting the guidelines of how the system works; (2) training the TWG executive teams on the system; and (3) disseminating the system to National Nutrition Coordination Committee (NNCC) stakeholders.



Figure 4: DAECC and DNCC members visiting role models Mr. and Mrs. Mwalapwa during IHF-HHA training in Machinga

2. Department of Crop Development (DCD)

SANE is partnering with the Department of Crop Development as the key contact agency within MoAIWD's National Fall Armyworm Taskforce (see below). Working with DCD, SANE conducted district- and ASP-level trainings for staff on FAW monitoring in Chikwawa and Nsanje districts. In Q4, SANE will continue to partner with the Department to conduct refresher trainings for community-level FAW

forecasters. DCD is taking a leading role in providing these trainings, as SANE moves to build sustainability beyond the Activity heading into Y5.

3. **Department of Agriculture Research Services (DARS) - Bvumbwe Research Station**

SANE is collaborating with Department of Agriculture Research Services' Bvumbwe Research Station to conduct a farmer-led assessment of locally-available options for controlling Fall Armyworm. More details on this collaboration are found in section 2.2 below.

4. **Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR)**

Throughout the Activity, SANE has engaged with LUANAR and supported students in agriculture and nutrition fields. SANE hosted three LUANAR dietetics students in Q3. One worked with Lilongwe DAECC and DNCC on a rapid qualitative study on *Barriers and Facilitators in AgNut Collaboration*. The study respondents identified six factors that facilitate collaboration, six themes that are barriers to collaboration, and 15 strategies to address those barriers. The report will be presented and discussed with DAECCs, DNCCs, DAES, and DNHA in Q4 to agree on actions.

The other two students worked together in Dedza to follow up on the work of a previous LUANAR dietetics student, who conducted a study in October 2017 on the nutritional status of secondary school students. The follow-up work tracked changes over time and helped link the national School Health and Nutrition program to DAESS and NCCs. The work began towards the end of Q3 and will be finalized and presented back to the school and DAESS and NCC platforms in Q4.

SANE also continued working with LUANAR in Q3 on IHF harmonization through the Irish Aid Funded Support to National Nutrition Response in Malawi project (see Annex 2: Integration Plan under HC4L), and is helping to advance a study on HHA and farmers' empowerment led by the Lilongwe West District Agriculture Development Officer (DADO) who is pursuing a PhD at LUANAR.

5. **Afikepo**

The EU-funded Afikepo project works to improve nutritional outcomes in Malawi and includes a diverse range of partners, including DAES, DNHA, FAO, GIZ, UNICEF, and CISANET. In 2018, SANE was involved in the development of the Afikepo-supported national AgNut training package, which was made available in Q3. SANE provided input to the training package and participated in a conference call led by UNICEF with the consulting team from Wageningen University (who are compiling the training) and the regional FAO office. SANE noted that for relevance, the materials needed more information from Malawi instead of from other countries and to be focused more on the frontline extension level instead of the national and district level, as most nutrition materials lacked relevance to frontline extension workers. After the package is complete, Afikepo will hold a validation meeting and, once agreed, all partners will then use the national AgNut training package, which will be an asset to strengthening nutrition in the agriculture sector. SANE will continue to follow and request progress updates from Afikepo on the training package in Q4 and FY2019/20. In Q3, SANE also collaborated with the Afikepo team on IHF harmonization with HC4L, which will continue in future quarters.

6. **Tiwalere**

SANE met with three Feed the Children (FTC) / Tiwalere staff⁹ in Q3, since FTC is closing their agriculture support in 3 districts that overlap with SANE (Lilongwe, Mangochi, and Mchinji). FTC partnered with AgDiv and TLC on its agricultural component, which is similar to IHF and involves gardens, orchards, and livestock pass-on programs. In Q4, SANE will follow up with the three DAECs to learn more about the Tiwalere/AgDiv/TLC approach and if there are ways for SANE and the DAESS platforms to promote its sustainability.

7. **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**

FAO's Kulima and PROSPER projects also conduct agricultural extension activities in Malawi and are logical partners for expanding Activity practices and benefits outside of the E-ZOI. Kulima is in 10 districts outside the USAID/Malawi E-ZOI, whereas PROSPER and SANE overlap in Balaka, Chikwawa, and Mangochi starting in 2019. During Q3, and in addition to the Afikepo-related work above, SANE also engaged FAO's Kulima and PROSPER staff in Malawi to work within DAESS to strengthen agriculture's role in nutrition, among other agriculture extension activities which are very similar between the two FAO projects. FAO shared the Farmer Field School (FFS) Master Training and SANE continues to provide guidance on their DAESS strengthening components.

Furthermore, SANE's leadership in championing the Community-Based Fall Armyworm Monitoring and Forecasting Approach – in collaboration with DAES and Crop Development – is being recognized. During the quarter, FAO invited SANE to attend the launch of its *Strengthening Monitoring and Early Warning Systems for Migratory Pests of Major Food Crops* project. The approach in the project is based on lessons from the Community-Based Forecasting of FAW. Though the project will be implemented outside the E-ZOI, SANE shared experiences of how communities feel empowered by taking the responsibilities of forecasting pests attacking their crops and using the findings to take collective action.

8. **Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)**

GIZ co-funded the AgNut materials harmonization workshop in Q3 (see 0.3. work planning, Integration Plan 2. HC4L) as part of the AgNut Technical Working Group, demonstrating the collaborative opportunities for leveraging funding to improve the functionality of the AgNut TWG.

9. **Norwegian Embassy**

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs – together with four other Norwegian Ministries involved in food systems – are preparing a new Norwegian action plan for Sustainable Food Systems. SANE was consulted to coordinate the participation of key Malawian food and nutrition professionals from MoAIWD, GIZ, and CRS, but also innovative local restaurant owners in a visit by Norwegian representatives. The coordination role SANE played helped build relationships with key food and nutrition partners and positioned SANE as a leader in the field. The visit to Malawi was important, as continued support to agriculture and food security constitute one of the priority sectors for the Malawian Government.

⁹Chief of Party and key technical staff

10. **World Renew**

SANE has worked with several NGOs to encourage their closer participation in DAESS platforms, as a means to improve coordination and demand-driven services. Advocacy with NGOs helps them understand the coordination system but also helps strengthen sector coordination platforms. In Q3, World Renew followed up with SANE for additional support in linking to DAESS platforms in Ntcheu. With SANE's guidance, World Renew staff working in different sectors are now participating in DAESS platforms along with attending DNCC, ADC, and VDC meetings. Follow-up support will be provided by SANE in future quarters so this continues.

11. **United Purpose (UP)**

United Purpose and SANE are members of Gender Networking Lunch Group, an informal group of 30 people who meet every other month to discuss Gender topics. During Q3 lunches, SANE shared ideas and experiences on HHA and UP showed an interest in collaborating around scaling up HHA. UP plans to utilize the approach with the 16 districts they support – seven of which overlap with SANE – in the coming months. The collaboration on the activity with UP will formally begin in Q4.

12. **Access Agriculture**

Access Agriculture and SANE began partnering in 2018 to help promote access to existing agricultural videos among DAESS platforms and communities. Since then, SANE has successfully linked Access Agriculture to DAESS platforms. After better understanding the technological needs of platform members, Access Agriculture has worked to convert videos to shorter versions that can be shared through WhatsApp. In Q3, AA and SANE held a joint 2.5-day training for six districts¹⁰ to help DAESS and DNCC platforms access, use, and monitor use of these existing videos.

13. **Civil Society Agriculture Network (CISANET)**

In Q3, SANE collaborated with CISANET to train Blantyre's DAECC, DNCC, and representatives from ASPs and ADCs on governance and accountability. The key facilitator of the training was CISANET, with backstopping from SANE. In Q4, CISANET is expected to facilitate similar trainings in Balaka and Machinga districts.

14. **Sugar Growers Association of Malawi (SUGAM)**

As noted in the MaFAAS private sector forum, many of the same service delivery gaps that are found in the public sector affect how households receiving private sector services benefit. SANE has worked with the Sugarcane Growers Association of Malawi (SUGAM) to improve their work in decision-making, nutrition, and gender towards better household-level results. SUGAM works with smallholder sugar producers as out-growers and are finding that the higher incomes generated through sugarcane are producing insignificant changes in household livelihoods, nutrition, and other key areas. In Q2, SANE and (SUGAM) partnered to conduct a training-of-trainers on HHA for SUGAM extension workers to improve power relations that affects decision making on allocation and utilization of resources in the household. The objective is to improve the out-growers' food security, nutrition, and intra-household

¹⁰ Balaka, Dedza, Lilongwe, Mangochi, Mchinji, and Nsanje.

equity. To document evidence of changes at the household level, baseline data will be collected prior to training 500 farming households, and an endline will be conducted in Y5. Results should help SUGAM and other private sector extension models better improve the households they serve.

15. Malawi Forum for Agricultural Advisory Services (MaFAAS)

MaFAAS will again conduct its annual Extension Week this year. Preparations for the event commenced towards the end of Q3. As in past years, SANE will co-fund participation of farmer representatives from the DAESS platforms in Q4. The team for this year's conference, entitled *Acting on Farmers' Voices for Agricultural Transformation*, closely matches SANE's objective to involve farmers in policy-level discussions, and showcases how pushing for farmers' involvement in Extension Week has changed MaFAAS's view on the role of farmers' voice. In addition to supporting farmers, SANE is also leading the thematic area on extension and advisory services during the forum.

In Q3, MaFAAS organized a workshop for stakeholders to share experiences on private sector extension and advisory services and discuss how to improve private sector services towards better markets for Malawian farmers. Key lessons learned will enable SANE to contribute to private sector extension efforts while still promoting demand-driven service delivery in its districts.

16. Oilseed Products Technical Working Group (OSP TWG)

SANE and DAES continue to be interested in the OSP TWG as much of the discussion is around improving extension services for oilseeds products. During past meetings, SANE and DAES have shared information about the DAESS and encouraged OSP TWG members to engage the system more closely. Although SANE and DAES were unavailable to attend the meeting in Q3, SANE suggested the OSP TWG start a WhatsApp group for sharing between meetings, which the OSP TWG secretariat established. This will enable efforts to promote the DAESS to continue remotely.

National Taskforce on Fall Armyworm

SANE continued to be a key member of the National Taskforce on Fall Armyworm, the committee mandated to provide leadership in the national FAW response. During the quarter, SANE presented its Community-Based Fall Armyworm Monitoring Approach and the corresponding feedback from participating DAESS platforms. The presentation caught the attention of other partners within the

Lessons Learned from the MaFAAS Private Sector Extension Forum

- Private and public extension has been complementary in Malawi since the 1900s.
- Private sector extension is better positioned than the public sector – with its shortage of extension workers – to grow agribusinesses and a market-oriented agricultural sector.
- Private sector companies – mostly seed companies and agro-dealers – reported gaps in coordination and collaboration, due to the competitive nature of their business models.
- A conflict of interest between profit-making and serving the farmers' needs is evident.
- A pluralistic, systems approach to provision of advisory services is still needed.
- VACs and ASPs are key to supporting innovation and adoption of technologies.
- Lead Farmers as private extension providers require capacity building, as they are the closest source of information in the community.

Taskforce (notably FAO) who expressed interest to partner with SANE in the implementation of these capacity building initiatives. These efforts will continue in Q4.

USAID/Malawi Partners Meeting

SANE attended USAID/Malawi's partners meeting during the quarter. The focus of the meeting was to brief Implementing Partners on the progress of the new Country Development Cooperation Strategy (CDCS) (2020-2024) being developed. The Strategy is prioritizing reducing the need for foreign assistance. The overall goal is building self-reliance through increased resilience and accountability. Strengthening governance and delivery systems, active youth involvement, and the engagement of the private sector for wealth creation summarize the three Development Objectives. The draft CDCS closely matches SANE's focus on building the capacity of local institutions to be self-reliant, empowering DAESS platforms to provide effective accountability mechanisms in service provision, and increasing inclusion of youth and private sector as members to the platforms for income-generating benefits.

Efforts to improve the visibility of USG-supported projects/Activities through media tours and radio interviews with beneficiaries were also encouraged. The use of press releases was emphasized to eliminate the possibility of being misquoted by the media.

0.7. Activity travel

The Deputy Project Director visited SANE in April to support preparation of the Q2 Quarterly Report and the on-boarding of the DCS. The AgReach Communications Specialist also traveled to Malawi to support rollout of the Extension Helper app used to improve extension coordination, build capacities, and share messaging. Three UIUC-based interns and a Supervisor also came to Malawi in Q3 to support rolling out of the video-based extension activity in the field.

Result 1: Policy Environment Improved

1.1. National Agricultural Extension and Advisory Services Strategy (NAEASS) finalized and implemented

Produce an abridged version of the NAEASS and disseminate through DAESS platforms

Dissemination of the Strategy did not progress during the quarter due to delays in finalization of the approval processes within the Ministry. SANE was informed by the Director of DAES that finalization of the Strategy was delayed to incorporate comments from non-state actors. Nonetheless, SANE has been informed that the launch of the Strategy should come in Q4. When the Strategy is ready, SANE is prepared to quickly support dissemination of the Strategy to DAESS platforms and other relevant coordination committees.

1.2. Agricultural Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy finalized and implemented

Produce an abridged version of the ASFNS and disseminate through DAESS and NCC platforms

The Agriculture Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy aims at improving coordinated implementation of nutrition activities in the agriculture sector. At the beginning of FY2018/19, SANE produced informational materials designed to make the ASFNS understandable to stakeholders at multiple levels. However, production and dissemination of the informational materials was halted to wait for formal approval of the ASFNS, which is forthcoming. When approved, SANE will quickly disseminate the ASFNS to district-level structures.

1.3. Support farmer participation in policy dialogue

Co-sponsor farmer involvement in district-level policy forums

Lilongwe District Stakeholder Panel meeting

District-level policy forums offer farmers the opportunity to engage with different stakeholders and provide input towards agricultural and nutrition policies, programs, and service delivery. Such forums include but are not limited to launches, open days, agriculture fairs, and district field days. During Q3, Lilongwe's District Stakeholder Panel held its quarterly meeting with strengthening coordination as the main agenda item. The DSP discussed DAESS's sustainability, the importance of Champions, accountability approaches for service providers, registration of VACs to ASPs and ASPs to the DSP respectively upon submission of an agreed fee, and opening a DSP bank account for supporting its own activities. Farmers who participated in this strategic planning meetings had the chance to help determine how DAESS platforms would operate in their district, which has far-reaching implications to how services will be accessed and delivered.

Blantyre District Development Plan launch

During the quarter, Blantyre District Council launched its District Development Plan (DDP) for the period from 2017 to 2022. The Plan outlines the district's consolidated development approach across multi-sectoral plans, and was created with input from local-level Governance structures – the DEC, ADCs, and



Figure 5: An extract of agriculture thematic areas from Blantyre DDP

VDCs – and communities. SANE had committed to support dissemination of the agricultural portion of the DDPs through the DAESS platforms. For the launch, a brochure of the agricultural plans was created in collaboration with the DAEC to ease dissemination. SANE also supported 10 representatives from 4 ASPs¹¹ to participate in the event, where they mounted a stand and made presentations on how they are coordinating extension service delivery within their platforms.

Co-sponsor farmer involvement in national-level policy forums

Including farmers at national-level events where policy and planning decisions are made helps their voice be included and helps documents to be properly tied to field-level realities. SANE has regularly sought these opportunities for farmers in its districts. In Q3, one relevant national event – the Scaling Up Nutrition learning forum and Nutrition Joint Sector Review – was postponed by the organizers at

DNHA. SANE planned to support DAESS platforms and NCCs to attend the event but will work with the platforms to identify other national opportunities for their participation. One such opportunity is the annual Extension Week organized by MaFAAS. In Q4, SANE will co-support participation at this important event.

1.4. Engage districts to develop District Strengthening Action Plans

No new DSAPs were developed during the quarter, although implementation of the existing DSAPs continued. However, due to the flexibility of the DSAPs, review of the activities was done with individual districts before submission of requests for prioritization.

¹¹ Chigalu, Kapeni, Kuntaja, and Makata

Result 2: Coordination/Capacity of Extension Service Providers Strengthened

2.1. Partner with districts to implement District Strengthening Action Plans

During Q3, SANE continued to support DAECCs, District Agriculture Offices (DAOs), and other stakeholders to implement prioritized activities as outlined in the District Strengthening Action Plans. Progress was made with several districts as shown in Figure 2. More specific activities are described below.

Orientation of the DNCC on DAESS in Blantyre

Strengthening collaboration between agricultural and nutrition coordination structures at all levels is one of the key focus areas of the SANE Activity. For the collaboration to be effective, it is important that the coordination

platforms understand their complementary roles as systems. Often this involves improving DNCCs' understanding of DAESS, and vice versa. SANE provided technical support to Blantyre DAECC and DNCC members for a one-day meeting on enhancing collaboration between the two systems. Twenty members from the DNCC (9) and the DAECC (11) participated in the meeting and developed strategies to improve collaboration between DAESS platforms and Nutrition coordination committees. The output of the meeting was a joint work plan for strengthening collaboration in implementation of Agriculture and Nutrition activities. Similar meetings and development of joint work plans are expected at ASP and VAC levels in Q4, with support from the district level platforms.

DSAP implementation through DAECC and DNCC partnership in Machinga

Machinga has struggled to implement activities from its DSAP in past quarters. However, with support from SANE, Machinga got back on track and submitted a concept note for one DSAP activity. In Q3, Machinga conducted an IHF-HHA training of its VACs and ANCCs. The activity was implemented jointly through partnership between DAECC leadership and the DNCC, helping to better integrate agriculture and nutrition in the district (see section 2.3 below).

DSAP implementation through DAECC and DSP partnership in Mangochi

DSPs and DAECCs are intended to collaborate closely at the district level. Mangochi has embraced this relationship, and Mangochi DAECC and DSP are providing objective leadership to the implementation of

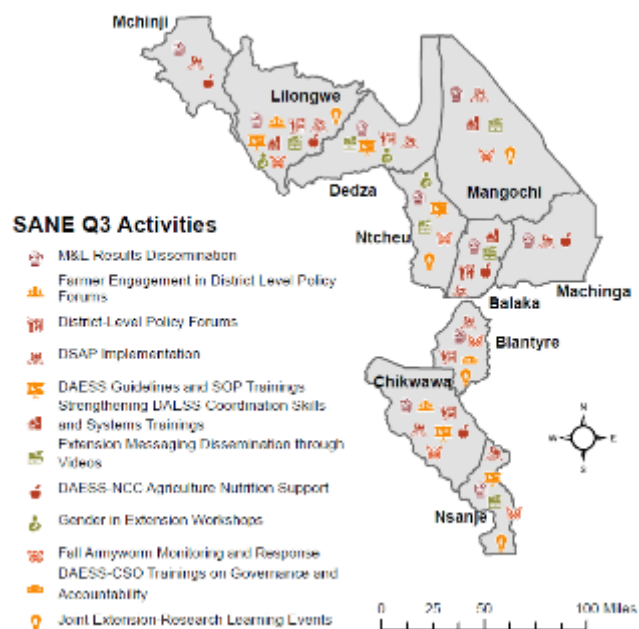


Figure 6: Map of SANE activities during Q3

the DSAP activities. Activities completed in Q3 include activities described in section 2.2 below on coordination skills and stakeholder mapping. Other planned DSAP activities – including work on environmental standards, a joint review meeting, and preparation for the District Agriculture Fair – are planned for Q4. The District Agriculture Fair is the priority activity for the DAECC in Q4, as it brings together all stakeholders and can be a catalyst for expanded services to farmers.

Orienting platforms and training on SOPs in Chikwawa

Chikwawa district implemented two activities out of its District Strengthening Action Plan in Q3, which has over 20 activities. The implemented activities were: (1) orientation sessions for the DSP and all 11 ASPs on their roles and responsibilities, and (2) training on using the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for running effective platforms. The orientation sessions helped the district to reconstitute its DSP, which had been dormant for more than a year. More details on the trainings are included in subsequent sections.



Figure 7: Kasisi ASP members in Chikwawa discussing with a DAECC member during SOP training

Training the DSP improving functionality and sustainability in Dedza

The DAESS system provides a mechanism for aggregating farmer demands and allowing response by service providers at various levels. The District Stakeholder Panel is mandated to consolidate and discuss farmers' demands from the ASPs below it in the system, while identifying possible solutions itself. Dedza's DSP required capacity building to fulfil this crucial role and improve linkages with the ASPs.

During the DSP training in Q3, the platform was trained on the SANE-developed SOPs to improve understanding of its roles and obligations to the other platforms. The Dedza DAECC representative from United Purpose, the district's EMO, and the CAEO from Lilongwe ADD facilitated the training. A total of 19 DSP members were oriented on: (1) their platform as a link with service providers at the district level, (2) standard practices for managing meetings, (3) resource mobilization, and (4) reporting. For effective backstopping of DSP activities and to demonstrate collaboration with other relevant stakeholders, 10 ASP Secretaries, representatives from the DNCC and District Council Secretariat, also participated in the training. As observed in other districts, as Dedza implements the SOPs its functionality will increase, leading to better meetings and interaction with service providers

Enhancing coordination in DSAP implementation in Balaka



Figure 8: Families in Balaka describing how they utilize HHA to create visions as a household

In Q3, Balaka continued to be a role model for coordination. The DSAP was used as an effective tool to demonstrate joint planning at district level and was regularly reviewed during the monthly DAECC meetings. The secretariat has been proactive in providing regular updates through WhatsApp – with active groups for the DAECC, DSP, DNCC, and ANCCs – and emails. The DAECC is flexible to try out new ways of doing things; jointly exploring ways of being responsive to farmers extension needs and nurtured the ownership spirit of the coordination platforms in all members including

those from village and area levels. This has kept members motivated and updated on the progress of implementation and upcoming activities. SANE will examine ways to share Balaka's success in this area with other districts in Q4 and beyond, perhaps through field visits and cross-trainings.

Joint supervision to strengthening coordination in ASPs in Nsanje

In Q3, Nsanje implemented joint supervisions by district-level platforms with Area-level platforms to strengthen coordination in all the nine of its ASPs. The supervisory visit was conducted by representatives from the DAECC, DNCC, and DSP. The visits revealed that at least seven out of the nine ASPs are demonstrating high levels of functionality, as evidenced by frequency of meetings, availability of a formal constitution and vision, and having strategies put in place to mobilize resources which are used to support platform meetings. The ASPs had also successfully increased the level of coordination with other committees – e.g. Care groups, the Village Natural Resource Management Committees (VNRMC), ANCCs, VDCs, and ADCs – that has resulted in the implementation of many successful community-level actions, such as backyard gardens, construction of irrigation schemes at Chimwala and

Mchacha, and the establishment of farmers groups that are venturing in various crop and livestock enterprises. Two ASPs (Mbenje and Tengani) also reported that they successfully organized and implemented a field day and manure launch in their Areas, respectively. Increased functionality leading to increased activity and services to farmers in Nsanje reinforces the SANE approach and can serve as a model for other districts.

Preparations for District Agricultural Fair in Mchinji

In Q3, Mchinji held two DAECC meetings to discuss preparations for its District Agricultural Fair planned for Q4. With SANE support, the DAECC has taken the initiative to involve ASPs and VACs in identifying invitees for the Fair, based on their needs and interests and that of their communities. By including these lower platforms, the District Agriculture Fair can be valuable to farmers themselves.

2.2. Improve capacities and strengthen coordination within DAESS

SANE builds capacity and improves functionality of DAESS platforms in order to promote the articulation of farmers' demands and facilitate linkages to service providers. Several significant activities were done this quarter, including: (1) dissemination and supporting the use of materials on DAESS and SOPs for DAESS platforms; (2) participatory stakeholder mapping using the Kumu online tool; (3) training of extension workers, Lead Farmers, and Civil Society Organizations in effective extension methodologies and on the DAESS; (4) supporting DAESS platforms on Fall Armyworm monitoring and control; and (5) incorporation of gender in the delivery of extension services.

Backstop use of DAESS Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures

District	Number of ASPs	Number of Participants		
		Male	Female	Total
Chikwawa	11	199	85	284
Dedza	8	151	95	246
Lilongwe	17	411	204	615
Nsanje	9	192	72	264
Ntcheu	14	147	95	242
Total	59	1100	551	1651

Table 2: Summary of SOP training attendees

A major component of building the capacity and functionality of DAESS comes through disseminating and training platforms on the revised DAESS Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures for platform management. During Q3, SANE supported Chikwawa, Dedza, Lilongwe, Nsanje, and Ntcheu districts to conduct trainings for 59 ASPs on the DAESS Guidelines and SOPs targeting a total of 1651¹² platform representatives. The trainings enabled the

VAC representatives to have a better understanding of their roles and responsibilities, how to effectively run meetings, and how platforms could conduct activities. During the trainings, SANE distributed extension materials on the DAESS that included posters and the SOP booklets, with the expectation that these will be shared with other farmers at village level. In Chikwawa, an orientation session was also conducted for the District Stakeholder Panel, which up to this point was not operational. A total of 26 farmers participated in the session. Table 2 above provides a summary of the number of ASPs and farmers trained in each of the 5 districts.

¹² 551 women and 1100 men

Training of DAES platforms on governance and accountability

Provision of demand-driven extension services requires partners to be accountable. In Q3 and as a continuation of similar trainings done for Lilongwe and Ntcheu districts in Q2, SANE conducted training on governance and accountability for DAESS representatives in Blantyre district in collaboration with CISANET, the LGAP project, and DCT¹³. Area Development Committees were included in the training, representing committees that provide oversight to sector development platforms including agriculture. A total of 49 participants¹⁴ attended the 1.5-day training.

The training content covered Local Government platforms and how they should link to DAESS and Nutrition coordination platforms. The training is expected to enhance the capacity of DAESS platforms in ensuring provision of quality agricultural and nutrition extension to farmers. The participation of ADC representatives enhances the support to DAESS platforms to demand quality services from providers in line with the guiding principle of the National Agricultural Extension Policy, that farmers should access quality services from those that are best able to provide them. In addition, collaboration among DAESS platforms, Local Government structures, and Nutrition Coordination Committees is expected to improve because the training clarified the roles of each platform and how they complement each other.

Participatory stakeholder mapping

Balaka, Lilongwe, and Mangochi have progressed on their stakeholder maps as a way to continue building coordination systems and skills. For example, through a training on coordination, Mangochi added 18 new activities to their stakeholder map¹⁵. SANE will continue to support

“Conflicting extension messages affect how we implement technologies in the field, there is need for proper coordination mechanism.”

Joyce Sakasa, DSP Chair, Lilongwe

mapping as a means to better determine where service providers and stakeholders can work together towards more efficient and demand-driven extension in their districts. Improved coordination of partners will enable better leveraging of existing resources with higher impact for households.

Coordination skills training in Balaka, Lilongwe, and Mangochi

In April, Balaka and Lilongwe took part in a pilot DAESS Coordination Skills and Systems training facilitated by SANE and Balaka's Extension Methodologies Officer. A total of 30 participants¹⁶ were trained, with Government and NGO personnel along with farmers in attendance. The course – which was co-developed and co-facilitated by SANE and the Balaka DAEC Secretariat (the EMO) – was designed to improve communication and feedback within and between DAESS platforms to enhance agricultural and nutrition coordination using stakeholder mapping. Post-tests showed significant increases in knowledge and overall positive feedback from the participants. One of the outputs was a

¹³ A Blantyre-based CSO contracted by LGAP

¹⁴ 10 DAEC and 5 DNCC members, 22 representatives from all Blantyre ASPs, and 11 ADC representatives

¹⁵ <https://kumu.io/bafema/mangochi-daec#mangochi-daec-map>

¹⁶ 9 women and 21 men; 4 under 30 years of age and 26 over 30 years

drafted Standard Operating Procedure for Coordination Systems, which will be refined before scaling out the training further. The training will also be split into two levels – ADD/DAECC and DSP/ASP – and tailored to each level along with guiding documentation, activities, and presentations.



Figure 9: DAECC member in Mangochi trains Kanyenga VAC members on the stakeholder mapping process

Mangochi also held a Coordination Skills and Systems training during Q3, but conducted it differently. This happens on occasion, as activities are designed with stakeholders leading the process to ensure relevance to their local context. The overall purpose of this version of the training was to improve Jalasi and Nkope ASPs' report writing, utilization of SOPs for meetings, and resource mobilization strategies for sustainability. To show commitment, Jalasi ASP initiated the request through the DSAP and contributed funding¹⁷ and fuel for transport. Nkope ASP hosted Jalasi ASP for the learning visit, since Nkope has

become highly functional in implementing the DAES, has put in place systems based on the SOPs, and uses participatory stakeholder mapping tools for identifying who is doing what, where, and how. Nkope ASP was supported by the DAECC to reach out to five VACs with the same training topics to ensure this capacity reaches lower levels of the DAESS, but with more emphasis on stakeholder mapping and record keeping. In total, 181 participants¹⁸ took part in the training and in the process.

Support to Fall Armyworm monitoring and control

During the quarter, SANE collaborated with the Department of Crop Development and FAO to support the ASPs who are using the Community-Based Fall Armyworm Monitoring Approach. In addition to regular backstopping of the platforms, SANE also held a series of trainings on the use of the FAMEWS app, an interactive android-based application that can be used by farmers, community focal persons, and extension workers to record vital data about FAW infestations. The data can then be used to generate detailed, reliable, and real-time information about infestations at various levels that can be used for mitigation efforts.

Training participants included frontline extension staff with Government and other non-state actors operating in Chikwawa and Nsanje districts, to utilize the tablets they received under the UBALE project. In both districts, every ASP also sent at least one representative to participate in the trainings conducted at the Extension Planning Area level. A total of 185 participants participated in the trainings. During the training, participants also discussed how information generated by FAMEWS can be shared

¹⁷ MK 20,000.00

¹⁸ 70 women and 142 men; 81% of participants were farmers

with farmers, forecasters, and DAESS platform representatives for appropriate actions. In Q4, SANE will support refresher trainings for Community Forecasters with specific emphasis on how information from these forecasting efforts can better be shared and utilized at community level.

Extension methodologies training

SANE continued its efforts to train frontline extension staff on key competencies to enhance extension service delivery in Q3. The objective is to build staff's capacity with key skills and to enable them to effectively mobilize and engage farmers for extension purposes. The Activity has used a training-of-trainers approach, and now those trained individuals are actively educating others. In many cases, this means that, once trained, trainees cascade the skills down to field-level extension workers who eventually train Lead Farmers within their respective ASPs.



Figure 10: Lead Farmer explains agricultural messages to fellow farmers at Naming'ong'o Irrigation Scheme in Lower Njolomole ASP

During the quarter, SANE continued to support frontline extension staff efforts at building the capacity of Lead Farmers in extension facilitation. Although no formal or large-scale trainings were conducted in the quarter, SANE continued to support frontline staff efforts in imparting extension facilitation skills to Lead Farmers. At this level, capacity building can include providing access to the Field Notebook or other useful technical information. In fact, in Q3 SANE worked with frontline staff to pre-test the Lead

Farmer Extension Handbook that is being developed. Feedback from these pretests has been incorporated into the final version of the Lead Farmer materials that will be printed in Q4. More formal trainings for staff and Lead Farmers have also been planned. These trainings have been prioritized in Q4, targeting districts where fewer extension staff were trained, as SANE expands its efforts to reach lower levels of the system with capacity building.

Research on local control methods for Fall Armyworm

SANE is collaborating with the Department of Research Services' Field Pests and Entomology Unit – located at Bvumbwe Research Station – to conduct a farmer-led assessment of locally-available options for controlling Fall Armyworm in selected districts within the E-ZOI (see Table 3). The objective is to identify effective and economical local methods that can be used to control the FAW for possible out-scaling among farmers. The research will contribute towards strengthening linkages between extension and researchers, improving farmer input into research design to match local needs, and giving farmers the chance to share experiences on sustainable FAW management solutions based on evidence.

Table 3: Fall Armyworm Research Sites and Treatments

District	Name of ASP	Name of Irrigation Site	Number of Replicates	Treatments
Blantyre	Somba	Kanyola	1	fish broth, Tephrosia, control
		Nasundu	3	fish broth, Tephrosia, control
Lilongwe	Kalolo	Fisi	4	Chili extract, tobacco extract, control
Mangochi	Chowe	Ngalu	4	Mwandiymbadala, Liwinji, control
Nsanje	Malemia	Nangali	2	fish broth, Neem, control
	Mbenje	Tiyanjane	2	fish broth, Neem, control
Ntcheu	Lower Makwangwala	Naman'gong'a	4	sand, hand picking, control



Figure 11: Farmers and researchers jointly participating in FAW trial plot layout at Kanyola Irrigation Scheme in Somba ASP in Blantyre

Training of staff in the FAW research protocol and selection of trial sites: In Q3, SANE trained frontline extension staff and other partners – ASP representatives, Lead Farmers, ADD staff, and district Crop Protection Officers – participating in the research activity on the research objective and the protocol for identifying the sites for the research trials and data collection requirements. The training was attended by 51 participants¹⁹, with Lead Farmers and ASP representatives included to enhance community-level understanding and ownership of the research process. Each of the five participating districts has one experiment with three treatments and four replicates (see Table 3 above).

Plot layout and land preparation: Following the action plan developed during the protocol

training, each district conducted sessions to: (1) discuss roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders involved in the research as well as other issues related to day-to-day farm activities beyond FAW control, and (2) prepare the plots where the trials will be planted with reference to the guidelines outlined in the protocol. A total of 110 farmers²⁰ participated in these learning activities.

Initial assessment of farmer involvement in the research work indicates their high level of commitment, a perception reinforced by coming to the research sites on time for tasks and working tirelessly. This is a good model for farmer-led research, and in Q4 SANE plans to engage other agricultural partners in the DAECC and ASPs to visit the sites for joint learning sessions.

Deployment of extension coordination app with extension workers

Collection of quality data and accounting for the time spent in the field with farmers has been a challenge for most extension workers. Supervisors have also not been able to track field activities for extension workers. In response, the University of Illinois developed a smartphone application – known as the AgReach Extension Helper App – that helps in documenting and tracking some tasks of the extension workers and assisting in providing technical information to farmers. Data generated by the app is uploaded to a dashboard where all extension activities in an area can be mapped, thereby enabling service providers to better coordinate.

The app was developed in the US and in Q3 the AgReach Communication Specialist visited SANE to field-test the App together with extension workers and supervisors. While the field-testing will continue

¹⁹ 14 women and 37 men

²⁰ 63 women and 49 men

into Q4, the experience enabled intended users – extension workers and supervisors – to provide feedback and identify potential issues requiring resolution. Debrief sessions are planned in Lilongwe district and with DAES for Q4. Improvements will then be made to the app, and SANE will work to roll it out at a greater scale in Y5.

Agriculture and Nutrition extension through ICT-based approaches

Information-communication technologies (ICTs) are powerful tools for informing and teaching farmers. In Y3, SANE began linking farmers to existing agricultural and nutrition videos through DAESS platforms and exploring use of locally available technologies for utilizing videos (phones/WhatsApp, tablets, video show rooms, etc.). In Y4, SANE is collaborating with DAES, Farm Radio Trust (FRT), and Access Agriculture to build the capacity of Agricultural Communications Officers (ACOs) at district level to utilize this approach in reaching farmers.

During Q3, Access Agriculture and SANE held a joint 2.5-day training for 6 districts²¹ to help platforms scale up access to, use of, and monitoring of existing videos through DAESS and DNCC platforms. Thirty-two participants²² took part from six ASPs linked to six VACs. The overall goal for this meeting was to showcase the video-based extension approach – building from work done in FY2017/18 – and prepare for larger-scale rollout in the districts.

²¹ Balaka, Dedza, Lilongwe, Mangochi, Nsanje, and Ntcheu

²² 14 women and 18 men; 6 under 30 and 26 over 30; 7 farmers, 19 from Government, and 6 from NGOs



Figure 12: Participants visiting a booth in a local market in Liwonde where DAECC representatives explain the DAESS and about access to extension videos

Following the training, SANE rolled out the implementation of the video-based extension activity with Dedza, Lilongwe East, and Lilongwe West districts. Officers from the three districts – who had been part of the 2.5-day training – were invited to a 1-day planning meeting where a schedule and logistics plan was created for the rollout. The rollout then commenced in six sites across three ASPs in Lilongwe²³ from 25-27 June 2019. Roll-out in the rest of the ASPs in Lilongwe East, Lilongwe West, and Dedza is planned for Q4. Rollout in all the districts is led by the district itself and DAES interns, with SANE and a team of three UIUC Interns providing logistical and technical support to the district teams. By giving the districts the chance to lead, SANE is building their capacity to use ICTs in extension and helping extension workers maximize their potential to share messaging at scale.

“With DAECC, DSP, ASP, VAC districts are ready for any intervention so partners should not feel obstructed at national level.”

“The existence of DJ provides an awesome opportunity to agricultural extension to farmers.”

“I have learned that even our local simple phones can be used to view agriculture videos.”

From anonymous participants’ evaluations after the Improving Access to Videos Training.

²³ Chadza, Kalumbu, and Masumbankhunda ASPs

2.3. Improve capacities and strengthen coordination, with a focus on integrated agriculture and nutrition

National Agriculture-Nutrition Technical Working Group

In Q3, SANE participated in one 3-day review meeting with the Agriculture-Nutrition Technical Working Group (AgNut TWG) and one additional AgNut TWG meeting. During these meetings, Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the TWG were reviewed and finalized, and now require review from DAES and DNHA to clarify the communication and reporting structure. SANE was selected as AgNut TWG's Co-Chair during the meetings. The TWG also agreed to meet quarterly and hold another activity per quarter, such as joint monitoring or material review meeting. In all, SANE is supporting the AgNut TWG to be more functional and have a greater role in agricultural and nutrition activities.

Develop and disseminate Agriculture-Nutrition materials

SANE is piloting one of the three materials that were reviewed by the AgNut TWG, entitled *Conducting Food and Nutrition Demonstrations*, which continued in Q3. The activity is being led by DAESS platforms in coordination with Nutrition Coordination Committees to strengthen linkages between the coordination platforms while simultaneously testing the materials. Also in Q3, SANE developed draft guidelines for integrating nutrition into field days, in consultation with DAES. The guidelines, which were field-tested in Chikwawa and Mchinji, were developed to facilitate strengthening the inclusion of nutrition in agricultural extension programming.

DAECCs/DNCCs backstop ASPs/ANCCs on IHF-HHA trainings



Figure 13: DAECC and DNCC members discussing SANE resources during a break

IHF-HHA collaboration trainings were held in Balaka (177 participants²⁴), Lilongwe (126 participants²⁵), and Machinga (139 participants²⁶) during Q3. In total, five districts²⁷ are now backstopping TA-level implementation of IHF-HHA, led by individuals and organizations previously trained by SANE. This cascading training-of-trainers approach will help nutrition extension reach many more households in SANE's districts moving forwards, while building local capacity in the technical areas.

The IHF-HHA trainings also are producing benefits in coordination of nutrition-related extension activities. In SANE's districts, many nutrition partners conduct agriculture activities – e.g. gardens, fruit tree planting, livestock pass-on programs – but fail to coordinate with DAESS platforms and each other, resulting in sub-optimal agriculture interventions that are not productive or sustained. The combined efforts of IHF and HHA through coordination platforms motivate districts to document and reach an increased number of households practicing IHF-HHA. As such, DAEC/DNCC, ASP/ANCC and VAC/VNCC members are potential and actual role models for sharing nutrition information and practices. An ultimate goal of the nutrition sector is to increase daily consumption of the Six Food Groups (as per guidelines) to contribute to improved nutrition outcomes. SANE's work with IHF-HHA is contributing towards this goal.

"First thing I met the SANE staff yesterday who asked me if I have a vision myself and I think this is where we need to start, with ourselves."

Edward Katunga, Machinga ADD

"Having leaders and role models for IHF and HHA can help make it sustainable. In one area we heard about the GVH Kalolo who had a very good integration of IHF and HHA activities."

Lilongwe DAEC Chair in his closing remarks

Training on strengthening nutrition in field days

Strengthening nutrition in agricultural extension services has the potential to improve sustainability and the impact of agriculture on nutrition status, health, and well-being. Field Days are one of the most common agricultural extension methodologies to showcase recommended technologies and practices with farmers. Field days therefore present an opportunity for integrating nutrition messages, practices, technologies, and products into agriculture. To demonstrate the integration, SANE collaborated with DAECs and DNCCs in Chikwawa and Mchinji to train VACs and VNCCs on how best to conduct field days.

²⁴ 69 women and 108 men; 31 under 30 and 146 over 30; 121 farmers, 48 from Government, 1 from private sector, and 7 from NGOs

²⁵ 49 women and 77 men; 18 under 30 and 108 over 30; 75 farmers, 49 from Government, and 2 from NGOs

²⁶ 38 women and 101 men; 28 under 30 and 111 over 30

²⁷ Balaka, Dedza, Lilongwe, Machinga and Mchinji

In Chikwawa, members of the districts' teams – the DAECC and DNCC – conducted a 4-day training for selected VACs and VNCCs in Katunga, Maseya, and Mlilima ASPs. A total of 122 participants were trained. The districts and VAC teams committed to apply the knowledge gained from the training in planning a manure, irrigation, and fodder conservation campaign in July 2019.

The 4-day training in Mchinji was conducted by DAECC and DNCC members and included 217 VAC and VNCC members. The training was complemented by field days organized by Mduwa and Simphasi ASP members, in collaboration with International Potato Centre (CIP). In addition to helping design the field day using techniques learned at the training, participants also viewed Orange Fleshed Sweet Potato (OFSP) demonstration plots before participating in OFSP-based food and nutrition demonstrations and displays. Participating farmers were also informed about products from OFSP, including juice, porridge, confectioneries, and flour.

"We have now realized the importance of collaboration between VACs and nutrition committees towards supporting nutrition. Previously, VACs and nutrition extension agents were working in isolation but it is important to collaborate from the farm to the table. We will ensure that we always display nutrition products made from crops that will be showcased during Field Days."

Hanock Sifoliyano Banda, Fisheries Lead Farmer, Nkangala VAC, Mduwa ASP, Mchinji

Despite the benefits of the trainings to participants, some issues emerged that SANE will help resolve in coming quarters. For example, the DAECC and DNCC were active in both districts but there was no evident collaboration between the two coordination platforms prior to the training. Furthermore, participation of VNCC members was poor in both districts. Through probing, it was found that the committees were not functional, and this made it difficult for the members to participate during the activity. However, the training is likely to facilitate collaboration between DAECC platforms and Nutrition Coordination Committees at all levels moving forwards.

Gender in Extension workshops



Figure 14: Participants clustering and analyzing issues which they brainstormed around female participation in DAESS

According to the National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP), 59% of the farmers in Malawi are female and produce up to 80% of the food, yet they are less productive by 28% on average compared to their male counterparts. Poor access and quality of extension services to women are contributing factors. In response, SANE works to build the capacity of extension workers around gender and to better include women in extension programming. Ultimately, the Activity aims to empower services to women to be more beneficial. The result should be better informed female farmers who are receiving needs-based services and demanding what they need to become highly productive farmers.

Towards these goals, SANE developed and conducted a pilot 2.5-day training in Q3 to improve female participation in DAESS. The training was held in partnership with DAES, Lilongwe ADD, Lilongwe DAEC, and national gender technical working groups. Representatives from Dedza and Ntcheu DAECs co-facilitated the training. A total of 56 participants²⁸ from

2 ASPs – Kalumbu and Njewa – and 36 VACs attended the training. The goal was to break down the barriers of female participation, inclusion, and involvement in agricultural extension and advisory services. The training process and results were overwhelmingly positive from the post-assessments. Participants reported being able to identify and address barriers to participation with their ASPs and VACs in order to promote the inclusion of at least 50% female participation and at least 30% youth (under 30 years of age) in programming. The trainings will continue in Q4, and SANE will follow up with participants trained in Q3 to determine how they are implementing knowledge gained towards better gender outcomes in extension.

Private sector extension for improved household nutrition and gender dynamics

In Q3, SANE and the Sugarcane Growers Association of Malawi (SUGAM) – an apex body of small-scale sugarcane growers and a partner of Illovo – discussed and prepared the design and implementation plan for IHF-HHA training for sugarcane out-growers' in Chikwawa and an associated study to assess the impact of the training. SANE coordinated with SUGAM to ensure the IHF-HHA training will build upon the training SUGAM provides in its ongoing capacity development project with Solidaridad. A formal agreement between SANE and SUGAM has been developed. Also during Q3, a research protocol and questionnaire were developed and approved by UIUC's Institutional Review Board and submitted to the

²⁸ 42 women and 8 men; 22 under 30 years of age

National Commission for Science and Technology in Malawi. Enumerators were also recruited for the baseline survey.

In Q4, a stakeholder meeting is scheduled to be jointly organized by SANE and SUGAM to review the IHF-HHA study and training plan to assure that all key partners including Chikwawa DAECC, Illovo, and Solidaridad are aware of and understand their role in the intervention and have an opportunity to influence the plans before starting. Soon after the stakeholder meeting, the agreement will be signed, and the baseline data collection will start.

SANE will then train SUGAM's extension workers on IHF-HHA so these workers can then train farmers to increase equitable decision-making and improve intra-household gender issues towards positive nutritional outcomes and food security gains within their households. The training will contribute to extension by building extension workers' capacities and strengthens DAESS by motivating agribusiness-focused farmers to participate in DAESS platforms to share perspectives and advocate for extension services that meet their unique needs.

Result 3: Institutional Linkages between Extension and Research Strengthened

3.1. Improve formal extension-research linkages

Promoting effective linkages between research and extension actors remained a key focus area for SANE in Q3. Strong research and extension linkages have great potential to not only ensure that research activities are addressing farmers' needs, but also that available outputs are promoted and disseminated widely to potential users. Building upon successes registered in working with research projects such as MISST, SANE continued to broker linkages between research actors and various DAESS platforms that will result into implementation of collaborative research activities. During the quarter, SANE has been working closely with the entomology unit at Bvumbwe Research Station, with whom it is collaborating on Fall Armyworm research. A Service Agreement with ASPs and DAECs will be signed with the platforms participating in this research in Q4.

3.2. Conduct joint extension-research activities

Planning and conducting joint research-extension activities is one of the ways SANE promotes interactions between researchers, extension workers, and farmers. With the phase-out of the MISST project in Q3, SANE plans to continue engaging with ASPs that hosted MISST's mega-demonstrations in FY2019/20 to conduct learning events focusing on nutrition and food processing and utilization. SANE has already started discussing with the nutrition department at LUANAR-NRC as a potential research partner in the implementation of these learning events. Discussions with LUANAR will be finalized during the first few weeks of Q4 with implementation planned to start in the subsequent weeks. Collaborative learning events on horticulture production will also be implemented in Q4 in partnership with MSIKA in the districts in which both projects overlap²⁹.

In Q3, SANE also conducted several learning events in collaboration with DARS Bvumbwe Research Station (see Annex 3). These six learning events focused on plot layout and land preparation. More learning events on the trial plots have been planned in Q4 to be conducted at various stages of crop growth. These will include: planting, preparation and administration of treatments, scouting for pests, and data collection.

²⁹ Dedza, Lilongwe, Mangochi, and Ntcheu

Challenges, Solutions, and Actions Taken

Implementation of activities in Q3 required strategic problem solving and Adaptive Management. Challenges, solutions, and actions taken are highlighted as follows:

Activity Management

- Completion of activities in SANE's Integration Plan is often compromised by low involvement of partners who have other priorities. This creates challenges for activities that SANE needs to report on. When possible, SANE and partners discuss steps for SANE to move ahead with district partners in preparation of full rollout with the partner organization.
- SANE's small staff team is challenged to be present in all 10 districts at frequent intervals. In response, the Activity has utilized more remote communication technologies and has relied heavily on local counterparts and champions.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

- The disparity between male and female participation in SANE's activities continued during the reporting period, especially with platforms and among extension workers who are predominately male. This has been noted despite efforts of deliberately asking for equal representation of men and women during activity implementation. In Q4, SANE will further encourage fair representation of women during activity implementation.
- Delays by governmental partners in finalizing the NAESS and ASFNS is affecting tracking of policy-related custom indicators. The approval process has been delayed, which is a significant step towards dissemination of the strategies. SANE will continue lobbying to expedite the process in Q4.
- SANE uses training-of-trainer approaches to deliver activities down to ASPs and VACs at scale. However, when non-SANE trainers conduct field work, the Activity often receives poorly-documented data and reporting. As a result, SANE's influence within districts is likely much larger than the M&E data is reflecting. The Activity has worked with DAECCs and other in-district partners to improve their data collection approaches. Having a well-functioning agriculture sector monitoring system would help address this for all partners.

Result 1: Policy Environment Improved

- Slow progress in finalization of the NAEASS and ASFNS and NAEAAS has delayed SANE's production of informational materials and subsequent dissemination to DAESS platforms and other key stakeholders at district level. The AFSNS in particular is awaiting senior decision-makers to return from leave. Follow-up meetings were made with the Director DAES, as the approval and launching of both Strategies should be done before dissemination can proceed. SANE also provided on-going support throughout the quarter. The Activity will stand by to support the dissemination of both Strategies once given the go-ahead.

Result 2: Coordination and Capacity of Extension Service Providers Strengthened

- Although they have developed their initial Plans, many DAECCS are slow in developing concepts for activities they have identified in their DSAPs and in beginning implementation. Frequent reminders were made to the districts as recourse, and improvements are expected in Q4. Also, SANE is using strong districts to model effective implementation. Nsanje is a role model, as they submitted three concepts for vetting and are planning for implementation in Q4. Some districts are starting to follow their lead and prepare several concepts.
- While SANE seeks to engage DAES as an equal partner to jointly plan and conduct activities, DAES branches are slow in finalizing activity concepts and moving forwards. In several cases where activities are being delayed, SANE has moved to the ADD or district level to continue the planning process with DAESS platforms, while awaiting DAES to complete its internal processes.
- SANE seeks to work across districts to allow cross-learning. However, identifying dates for the 10 districts to conduct activities is challenging, with several competing priorities that are not often communicated in advance. District activities have also been postponed at the last minute because of national and ADD programs. In response, SANE has strived to have several districts ready to implement their concepts at once and be flexible to rescheduling in cases where there is a clash of programs in the districts.

Result 3: Institutional Linkages between Research and Extension Strengthened

- As the MISST project has phased out, SANE has shifted to working more closely with new partners, including LUANAR, CYMMT, IITA, ICRISAT, and MSIKA. While learning events with these partners will continue in Q4, there is a learning curve as each begins to engage with DAESS platforms. SANE has put considerable attention into building relationships between research and extension actors in Q3 as a result.

Priorities for Next Quarter

Activity Management

- Hold Project Steering Committee meeting
- Develop FY2019/20 Annual Work Plan
- Backstop field activities
- Networking with partners

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

- Complete analysis of Y4 SCAT data
- Conduct baseline data collection for private sector extension activity
- Finalize dissemination of district summaries (Chichewa version) to all the DAESS platforms
- Support FY2019/2010 work plan development
- Conduct routine monitoring activities

Result 1: Policy Environment Improved

- Support approval of the NAEASS and ASFNS
- Support development of abridged versions of the NAEASS and AFSNS and dissemination
- Co-sponsor DAESS and nutrition coordination platform farmers to participate in policy platforms at district and national level

Result 2: Coordination and Capacity of Extension Service Providers Strengthened

- Scale up district implementation of the DSAPs in all 10 Activity districts
- Facilitate trainings on governance and accountability at district and ASP levels
- Disseminate Area Development Plans to VACs in collaboration with LGAP
- Conduct Lead Farmer trainings
- Scale up delivery of agricultural and nutrition technical messages through phone- and video-based approaches
- Deploy extension coordination app with extension workers
- Review, develop, and disseminate Agriculture-Nutrition materials with the National AgNut Technical Working Group
- Support DAECs and DNCCs to backstop ASPs and ANCCs to conduct joint IHF-HHA trainings with VACs and VNCCs
- Support training on integrating nutrition into field days

- Conduct private sector extension training with SUGAM to enhance farmers' decision-making and food security through IHF and HHA
- Hold additional Gender in Extension workshops with all remaining ADDs

Result 3: Institutional Linkages between Research and Extension Strengthened

- Facilitate development and signing of Service Agreements between DAECCs and research actors
- Support implementation of collaborative learning events with DAESS platforms, extension stakeholders, research actors, and farmers
- Facilitate better integration of nutrition into learning events

Annexes

Annex 1: Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP) Progress to Date

SANE Year 4 Activity	SANE Lead	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			Notes
		OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	
Overall Objective/Goal: Strengthen the capacity of DAES to facilitate coordination between agricultural and nutrition extension actors to provide more effective agricultural and nutrition extension services for smallholder women and men farmers, particularly in the ZOI.														
0.1.1. Hire Activity staff	COP	x	x											The DCS hiring was finalized. Hiring process of Finance Assistant commenced.
0.2.1. Hold Project Steering Committee meetings	COP				x								x	None planned for the quarter.
0.3.1. Develop Activity Work Plan	COP												x	Planned for Q4.
0.3.2. Develop USAID Integration Plan	COP	x	x											Done and submitted to USAID in Q1.
0.3.3. Update PERSUAP	COP	x	x											Done and submitted to USAID in Q1.
0.4.1. Revise and finalize M&E Plan	MES	x	x	x										Done and submitted in Q2.
0.4.2. Analyze annual M&E data	MES	x	x	x										Done in Q1.
0.4.3. Conduct survey of DAESS platforms using System Capacity Assessment Tools (SCATs)	MES									x	x	x	x	Data collection started in Q3 and will finish in Q4. Analysis and report writing will be done in Q4
0.5.1. Prepare Annual Report	COP	x												Done and submitted to USAID in Q1.
0.5.2. Prepare Quarterly Reports	COP				x			x			x			On-going.
0.6.1. Review SANE Communication Strategy and knowledge management system	DCS							x	x	x	x	x	x	Action plan for communication activities prepared by DCS. Revision of Communications Strategy is on-going.
0.6.2. Create summaries of Annual and Quarterly Reports for stakeholders	DCS		x			x			x			x		Planned for Q4.
0.6.3. Disseminate Annual and Quarterly Report summaries	DCS		x			x			x			x		Planned for Q4.
0.6.4. Prepare reports and briefs based on annual M&E results	DCS		x	x	x									Done in Q1.

SANE Year 4 Activity	SANE Lead	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			Notes
		OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	
0.6.5. Disseminate reports and briefs based on annual M&E results	DCS				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		The SCAT District Summary reports were shared with platforms in SANE and non-SANE in Q3.
0.6.6. Develop and maintain SANE website and social media	DCS	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	On-going.
0.7.1. PD travel to Malawi for Activity backstopping	PD						x				x			No travel during Q3.
0.7.2. DPD travel to Malawi for Activity backstopping	DPD				x			x			x		x	DPD travelled to Malawi at the beginning of Q3 as planned.
0.7.3. Research Specialist travel to Malawi for Activity backstopping	DPD									x				Travel planned for Q4.
0.7.4. Program Quality Specialist travel to Malawi for Activity backstopping	DPD				x						x			No travel during Q3.
0.7.5. STTA travel to Malawi for FAW Activity backstopping	DPD		x											No travel during Q3, as the FAW research is supported by local scientists at Bvumbwe research station.
0.7.6. STTA travel to Malawi for Gender Activity backstopping	DPD					x								No travel during Q3.
0.7.7. SANE Activity staff and DAES travel to disseminate Activity results at regional and international conferences	DPD		x			x			x			x		No travel during Q3.
1.1.1. Produce an abridged version of the National Agricultural Extension Strategy and translate into Chichewa, Yao, and Sena	COP				x	x	x							Awaiting finalization and approval of the NAEASS.
1.1.2. Disseminate the National Agricultural Extension Strategy through the DAESS platforms	COP							x	x	x	x	x	x	Awaiting finalization and approval of the NAEASS.
1.2.1. Facilitate development and production of abridged versions and other informational materials for the Agricultural Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy	NES	x	x			x								Awaiting finalization and approval of the ASFNS.
1.2.2. Disseminate the Agricultural Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy through DAESS and Nutrition Coordination platforms	NES			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Awaiting finalization and approval of the ASFNS.
1.3.1. Co-sponsor farmer involvement in district-level policy forums	AES			x			x			x			x	Balaka, Chikwawa, Dedza, and Lilongwe conducted DSP meetings. SANE supported farmers to attend Blantyre DDP launch.

SANE Year 4 Activity	SANE Lead	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			Notes
		OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	
1.3.2. Co-sponsor farmer involvement in national-level policy forums	AES	x		x							x	x		Plan to sponsor 4 DAESS and NCCs to participate in the Scaling Up Nutrition learning forum and Nutrition Joint Sector Review moved to Q4 when event was postponed.
1.4.1. Hold DSAP workshop with remaining 4 districts	COP		x	x										Done in Q1.
1.4.2. Joint review of the 6 DSAPs from Y2 and Y3	COP		x	x										Done in Q1. Periodic reviews of DSAP activities done in Q3 in collaboration with respective districts.
2.1.1. Support district implementation of the DSAPs in all 10 Activity districts	COP	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	On-going in all districts.
2.2.1. Review and scale up printing of the DAESS and SOP communication materials	AES		x	x										Done in Q1. Copies of SOP booklets and DAESS posters distributed to VACs and ASPs throughout Q3 for use during trainings and other field-level activities.
2.2.2. Backstop ASPs on use of the DAESS Guidelines and SOPs to put them into practice	AES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	VAC training on SOPs done in Chikwawa, Dedza, Lilongwe, Nsanje, and Ntcheu in Q3.
2.2.3. Support districts' training of frontline staff on extension methodologies	AES				x	x	x							Done in Q2. Additional training planned for Q4.
2.2.4. Support frontline staff training Lead Farmers on facilitation skills	AES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		Backstopping of trained Lead Farmers done in Q3. New trainings planned for Q4.
2.2.5. Train and support ASPs on community-based monitoring of Fall Armyworm with pheromone traps	AES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Collaborated with DCD and FAO to train district and frontline staff in Chikwawa and Nsanje on FAW monitoring using the FAMEWS app in Q3.
2.2.6. Conduct assessment of local FAW controls and extension's potential to scale out	AES		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Research trials being implemented in collaboration with the Entomology Unit at Bvumbwe research station in Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mangochi, Nsanje, and Ntcheu. Trial sites planted in Q3.
2.2.7. Support development of additional extension videos in Chichewa	AES	x	x	x	x	x	x							Planned for Q4.

SANE Year 4 Activity	SANE Lead	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			Notes
		OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	
2.2.8. Scale up delivery of agricultural and nutrition technical messages through phone- and video-based approaches	NES		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Workshop conducted with 6 districts to link DAESS platforms to existing Access Agriculture ICT hubs. Rollout to districts started in Dedza and Lilongwe and will continue in Q4.
2.2.9. Deploy extension coordination App with extension workers	AES				x	x	x							Pilot begin in Q3 and will continue in Q4.
2.3.1. Review Agriculture Nutrition materials with the National AgNut Technical Working Group	NES	x	x		x	x		x	x		x	x		Done. Reviewed 3 AgNut materials and started piloting one (see 2.3.2) in Q3. Developed a draft SOP for AgNut materials development that will be finalized and disseminated in Q4 in collaboration with the National Agriculture Content Development Committee.
2.3.2. Develop and disseminate Agriculture Nutrition materials based on gaps identified by National AgNut Technical Working Group	NES			x			x			x			x	Done. Piloting one of the reviewed materials with DAESS and NCCs and strengthening linkages between the coordination platforms simultaneously.
2.3.3. Support DAECCs and DNCCs to backstop ASPs and ANCCs to conduct joint IHF-HHA trainings with VACs and VNCCs	NES			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Done in Balaka, Lilongwe, and Machinga in Q3.
2.3.4. Assess HHA and farmer empowerment through DAESS	COP	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					Delayed to Q4 by LUANAR.
2.3.5. Partner with private sector extension to enhance farmers' decision-making and food security through HHA	NES		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		Preparations done in Q3. Baseline survey and training planned for Q4.
2.3.6. Train private sector and civil society organizations on the DAESS's role in governance, accountability, and extension for nutrition and soil health	ANES		x			x	x		x			x		Done in Blantyre for representatives from the DAECC, DNCC, ASPs, and ADCs. Conducted jointly with LGAP.
2.3.7. Hold four Gender in Agricultural Extension workshops	COP					x	x							First gender training done in Q3 with Dedza, Lilongwe, and Ntcheu ASP members. Scaling out in these and other districts in Q4.
3.1.1. Facilitate development of Service Agreements between DAECCs and research actors	AES	x	x	x	x									In progress. Service Agreements between DARS and ASPs hosting the research trials prepared in Q3. Signing will be finalized in Q4.

SANE Year 4 Activity	SANE Lead	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4			Notes
		OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	
3.2.1. Support implementation of collaborative learning events with DAESS platforms and research actors	AES	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Learning events were conducted in FAW trial plots in Q3. Additional learning events planned for Q4.

Annex 2: Integration Plan Progress to Date

Partner / SANE lead	Activity (SANE Annual Work Plan)	Key Output	Target	Unit of Measure	Location	Q3 progress
Local Government Accountability Program (LGAP) COP	Engage CSOs contracted by LGAP to train ASPs on governance and accountability	CSOs train ASPs on assessing quality of services, accountability, and oversight of district planning	5	ASPs	Balaka; Blantyre; Lilongwe; Machinga	ASP representatives were trained at district level. CSOs will cascade the training to all ASP members.
	Co-facilitate training of private sector and CSOs on DAESS's role in governance and accountability (2.3.5)	Private sector and CSOs trained on the role of DAESS in governance and accountability	4	Districts		Representatives from the DAECC, DNCC, ASPs, and ADCs were trained in Blantyre. Training done jointly with LGAP, with CISANET as the main facilitator.
	Disseminate the Area Development plans to ASPs and identify agricultural themes to track implementation	Agricultural themes identified by ASPs to track implementation during the year	10	ASPs		Shared a brochure on agricultural themes extracted from the Blantyre DDP to support dissemination to ASP. Backstopping to continue in Q4.
	Share SOP booklets on establishment of DAESS platforms and conducting meetings with LGAP for adaptation to suit local government platforms (2.2.2)	SOPs adapted for use by ADCs and VDCs	2	SOP booklets		Done in Q2. LGAP in the process of adapting the SOPs. Lilongwe will pilot in Q4.
	Attend selected Districts' Council meetings with LGAP to sensitize Councils on the DAESS and establish linkages with government platforms	Integration meetings attended to sensitize District Councils	3	Meetings attended		Not done. Awaiting confirmation of council meeting schedule after the elections.
	Train District Councils to utilize the Kumu tool in mapping CSOs in four districts	Districts' maps developed	2	Districts using maps to identify stakeholders	Balaka; Lilongwe	Shifted to Q4.
Agricultural Diversification (AgDiv) NES	Facilitate development and production of abridged versions and other informational materials for the Agricultural Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy with DAES and partners (1.2.1)	Co-fund writeshop to develop the materials	3	Abridged versions of the strategy	National level	Done in Q2. Pending MoAIWD approval of the ASFNS.
	Review Agriculture Nutrition materials to disseminate with the AgNut TWG (2.3.1)	Co-fund AgNut TWG meetings and material review meetings	3	Meetings funded	National Level	AgDiv is focusing efforts on their core agricultural products.

Partner / SANE lead	Activity (SANE Annual Work Plan)	Key Output	Target	Unit of Measure	Location	Q3 progress
	Develop and disseminate AgNut materials based on gaps identified (2.3.3)	Harmonized materials disseminated to DAESS and nutrition coordination platforms	8	Districts	Balaka; Blantyre; Dedza; Lilongwe; Machinga; Mangochi; Mchinji; Ntcheu	In progress. AgDiv linked SANE to their partners in each district to encourage and guide partners on how to work with DAESS, not just NCCs. Materials are based on AgDiv's core agricultural products.
	Support DAECs and DNCCs to backstop ASPs and ANCCs to conduct joint IHF-HHA trainings with VACs and VNCCs (2.3.2)	Co-fund DAESS and nutrition coordination platform Ag-Nutrition-Gender trainings via IHF-HHA	8	Districts		
Health Communication for Life (HC4L)	Facilitate development and production of abridged versions and other informational materials for the Agricultural Sector Food and Nutrition Strategy with DAES and partners (1.2.1)	Co-fund writeshop to develop materials	3	Abridged versions of the strategy	National level	Done in Q2. Pending MoAIWD approval of the ASFNS.
NES	Review AgNut materials disseminated with AgNut TWG (2.3.1)	Co-fund AgNut TWG meetings and material review meetings	3	Meetings funded	National level	Done. One 3-day workshop co-funded in Q3 to review three materials.
	Develop and disseminate AgNut materials based on gaps identified (2.3.2)	Harmonized materials disseminated to DAESS and nutrition coordination platforms	3	Materials developed	Balaka; Chikwawa; Lilongwe; Machinga; Mangochi;	Done. Three materials reviewed and improved during a 3-day workshop, as well as a draft SOP for AgNut materials development. Of the material piloted in Q3 and Q4, one was near completion in Q3, and the third needs action from MoAIWD.
Malawi Strengthening Inclusive Markets for Agriculture (MSIKA)	Engage policy-makers to advocate for issues affecting farmers in the horticulture sector by promoting farmer participation in horticulture policy forums (1.3.1)	Issues affecting farmers and other agriculture stakeholders identified and documented	5	Districts	Dedza; Lilongwe; Mangochi; Mchinji; Ntcheu	In progress. Draft Strategy developed awaiting review by Directors in MoAIWD. Regional and district-wide stakeholder consultations planned for Q4 after the review. SANE plans to support DAESS platforms to participate in these sessions.
AES	Support Lead Farmer training session on DAESS and extension facilitation skills (2.2.4.)	Capacity of Lead Farmers on extension facilitation enhanced	5	Districts		Planned for Q4.
	Facilitate development of Service Agreements between DAECs and the MSIKA project (3.1.1)	Activities for enhancing interactions between research and extension at the Yankho plots identified	5	Service Agreements		In progress. Service Agreements to be signed in Q4 with ASPs where the Yankho plots have been established.

Partner / SANE lead	Activity (SANE Annual Work Plan)	Key Output	Target	Unit of Measure	Location	Q3 progress
	Support implementation of collaborative learning events with DAESS platforms and research actors at the Yankho plots to enhance farmer learning and experience-sharing (3.2.1)	Key research and extension stakeholders participate in learning activities	10	Collaborative learning events implemented		Prioritized for implementation in Q4.
United in Building and Advancing Life Expectations (UBALE)	Co-facilitate training of ASPs on community-based Fall Armyworm monitoring with pheromone traps (2.2.6)	Farmers gain knowledge in Fall Armyworm management	15	ASPs	Blantyre; Chikwawa; Nsanje	Some ASPs' representatives attended the training with extension workers in Q3. Further trainings planned for Q4.
AES	Co-facilitate orientation of staff on the Fall Armyworm monitoring app FAMEWS	Systems for data collection on Fall Armyworm established	3	Districts		Done for Chikwawa and Nsanje in Q3. Training for Blantyre to be conducted in Q4.
	Scale up delivery of agricultural and nutrition technical messages using Pico projectors and tablets (2.2.8)	Farmers gain knowledge from extension videos	15	Technical videos shared through video-based extension methods		Video sessions done in Dedza and Lilongwe in Q3. Further sessions planned in Nsanje in Q4.
Malawi Improved Seed Systems and Technologies (MISST)	Facilitate development of Service Agreements between DAECs and the MISST project for implementation of research-extension activities (3.1.1)	Activities for enhancing interactions between research and extension identified and formally agreed upon	7	Service Agreements	Balaka; Dedza; Lilongwe; Machinga; Mangochi; Mchinji; Ntcheu	Done for five districts in Q2. Further Service Agreements planned for Q4.
AES	Support implementation of collaborative learning events with DAESS platforms and research actors at mega- demonstrations (3.2.1)	Key research and extension stakeholders participate in learning activities	140	Collaborative learning events implemented		Learning events conducted in the FAW trial sites in Q3. Learning events in Q4 planned with individual CG centers that were part of the MISST consortium and with Bvumbwe research station.

Annex 3: Summary of Workshops and Trainings

1) Activity Title:	Strengthening DAESS Coordination Skills & Systems									
Activity Date:	15-17 April 2019					Date of report:	9 July 2019			
Districts involved:	Lilongwe and Balaka									
Activity Venue:	Dedza									
DAESS focal point:	Balaka AEMO, Alfred Tsitsi, TsitsiAlfred@gmail.com , 0999-645-506									
SANE focal point:	NES, Stacia Nordin, 0999-333-073 Nordin@illinois.edu									
Participants Total:	30	Female:	9	Male:	21	<30:	4	>30:	26	
		%:	30%	%:	70%	%	13%	%	87%	
Although the activity did not achieve our female and youth participation goals, the majority of people selected were in hired positions where selection of age or sex is already made.										
Participant Type:	Farmer:	5	Gov:	22	Private	0	NGO	2	Other:	0
	%	17%	%	73%	%	0%	%	4%	%	0%
Participating Organizations (names):	Gov:		MoAIWD / ADD, MoLGRD, MoCECCD, MoH, MoICT							
	Private:		None							
	NGO/CSO:		NASFAM, Inter Aide							
	Other:		None							
Participating Platforms (#, names):	District:		DAECC, DNCC, DEC							
	ASP/ANCCs:		2 Lilongwe: Chadza ASP, Tsabango ASP & ANCC 2 Balaka: Kalembo ASP, Msamala ASP & ANCC							
	VACs/VNCCs:		3 Chadza ASP: Msampha VAC, Nakuyere VAC, Kalumba VAC 3 Kalembo ASP: Kaumba VAC, Kuntiyani VAC, Mgulula VAC							
Activity Purpose & brief results:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To improve communication and feedback within and between DAESS platforms to enhance agricultural and nutrition coordination.Post-tests improved from 11 to 17 out of 20 and overall feedback from the workshop was positive.									
Activity Objectives & brief results:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Share best practices in knowledge management, documentation, mapping, and communication;<ul style="list-style-type: none">Several sessions documented and discussed individual knowledge and post-tests showed an increase in knowledge.Be equipped with documentation and communication skills and where to get support on the same;<ul style="list-style-type: none">The training touched on some of these skills but in the future, it will be better to divide the participants into electronic documentation and communication (district level) and paper and people based (TA and GVH level) to be able to delve into relevant topics.Finalize and utilize participatory mapping using Kumu;<ul style="list-style-type: none">This was presented as an overview of the systems and how to use it. Internet connection at the venue was poor. By the end of the workshop 9 of the 20 participants said they would use Kumu after the workshop with the guidance provided (4 from Balaka and 5 from Lilongwe).Develop and document standard operating procedures for communication coordination systems;<ul style="list-style-type: none">Small groups drafted the key points to be included in the SOP.									
Activity Outputs & brief results:	The results under objectives are the same as for these outputs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Better equipped secretariat teams;Improved systems for communication, information management, documentation, and archives with skills to continue to improve them with their platforms;A functional Kumu map and skills to continue to add to the map and use it to identify coordination and collaboration challenges and opportunities; andAn advanced draft of an SOP for communication within and between platforms.									
Benefits to DAESS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Participants better understand tools to utilize within DAESS for improved coordination.									

1) Activity Title:	Strengthening DAESS Coordination Skills & Systems
Progress towards SANE's indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pilot course on strengthening coordination skills and systems proved useful and will be refined and adapted then scaled out to other districts in Q4 and Y5.
Participant quote/s:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "[DAECC's role is] Collaborating, Coordinating and co-locating activities and stakeholders in the platform." – Thokozani Luhanga, Balaka DAECC & DNCC • "The district has a lot of stakeholders doing agriculture and they all need to be known and coordinate with DAECC." – Chawananga Mkandawire, Lilongwe DAECC • "Conflicting extension messages effect how we implement technologies in the field, there is need for proper coordination mechanism." – Joyce Sakala, DSP Chair Lilongwe, ASP Chair • "Yes, will use Kumu. I will go through the manual to do mapping. It will answer the what, where, when, who and how." – Brighton LL ANCC

2) Activity Title:	IHF with HHA Collaboration Training									
Activity Date:	7-10 May 2019					Date of report:	23 May 2019			
Districts involved:	Lilongwe									
Activity Venue:	Lilongwe ADD and 4 ASPs: Mtema, Malili, Njewa, Kalolo									
DAESS focal point:	LLW ABO, Brenda Mwangomba, 0999-932-294, 0884-533-566,									
SANE focal point:	NES, Stacia Nordin, 0999-333-073 Nordin@illinois.edu									
Participants Total:	126		F:	49	Male:	77	<30:	18	>30:	108
			%:	39%	%:	61%		%		14%
Participant Type:	Farmer:	75	Gov:	49	Private	0	NGO/CSO	2	Other:	0
	%	60%		%		39%		%		0
Participating Organizations (names):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gov: MoAIWD, MoEST, MoH, MoCECCD, MoICT, MoGPrivate: n/aNSO/CSO: World Relief, Inter AideOther: none									
Participating Platforms (#, names):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">District: DAECC, DSP, DNCC4 ASP/ANCCs38 VACs:Mtema VACs:1. Biwi,2. Bwatha3. Chimphepo4. Chitululu5. Kafutwe		<ul style="list-style-type: none">6. Kholongo7. Makumi8. Mndere9. Mphonde10. Mseteza11. Mtema12. Mwaz13. Mzingo14. Mzumanzi15. Nkhadani		<ul style="list-style-type: none">16. Nkhalapadzu17. Nyangu18. TaizaMalili VACs:1. Chillinga2. Chitedze3. Chiwaya4. Kaduwa5. Khumbi		<ul style="list-style-type: none">6. SaluNjewa VACs:1. Bwemba2. Chikhuthe3. Mlezi4. Mngnenje5. Muzu6. Njiwa7. Nkhangwi		<ul style="list-style-type: none">8. Sankhani9. Sankhani-Chigweda10. Tambala11. TsapaKalolo VACs1. Chileka2. Ming’ongo3. Chilaza	
Activity Purpose:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To coordinate IHF-HHA service delivery through the DAESS platforms in collaboration with NCC.									
Activity Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To coordinate IHF/HHA through DAESS in collaboration with NCCs platforms with the aim of reaching all households in an organized manner.Develop a clear, agreed plan (road map) for IHF/HHA implementation throughout the District.									
Activity Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A clear, agreed plan (road map) for IHF/HHA implementation throughout the District.									
Benefits to DAESS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased number of households practicing IHF/HHA (including DAECC/DNCC, ASP/ANCC and VAC/VNCC).To ultimately increase adoption of daily consumption of 6 food groups as per guidelines.									
Progress towards SANE’s indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved capacity of and coordination between DAESS and NCC platforms.									
Participant quote/s:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">DAECC Chair closing remarks: “Having leaders and role models for IHF and HHA can help make it sustainable. In one area we heard about the GVH Kalolo who had a very good integration of IHF and HHA activities.”									

3) Activity Title:	Access to Videos with 6 districts									
Activity Date:	15-17 May 2019					Date of report:	20 May 2019			
Districts involved:	Lilongwe, Dedza, Ntcheu, Balaka, Mangochi, Nsanje									
Activity Venue:	Machinga ADD									
DAESS focal point:	EMOs in each district with their ACOs and DAECCs									
SANE focal point:	Stacia Nordin, NES, 0999-333-073 Nordin@illinois.edu with Access Agriculture, Ronald Udedi, 0888-343-792, Ronald@AccessAgriculture.org									
Participants Total:	32		F:	14	Male:	18	<30:	6	>30:	26
			%:	44%	%:	56%	%	19%	%	81%
Participant Type:	Farmer:	7	Gov:	19	Private	0	NGO/CSO	6	Other:	0
	%	22	%	59%	%	0%	%	19%	%	0
Participating Organizations (names):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gov: MoAIWD, DAECCs, ASPsPrivate: noneNSO/CSO: World Vision, United Purpose, Inter Aide, SEEED Malawi, Concern Worldwide, NASFAMOther: none									
Participating Platforms (#, names):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">District: DAECC, DSP6 ASPs: ASP Chadza, ASP Kalembo, ASP Kaphuka, ASP Malombola, ASP Mbenje, ASP TsikulamowaRepresenting 6 VACs (not additional people, but tied to the above ASPs: VAC Gangawako, VAC Kalupsya, VAC Makuyere, VAC Malompla'gaiya, VAC Mkamwana, VAC Napulu II									
Activity Purpose:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To scale up access to, use, and monitoring of existing videos through DAESS and DNCC platforms.									
Activity Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improve coordination of and access to agricultural extension videos for extension and advisory services. Videos include topics of gender, nutrition, environment, etc. that the agriculture sector is responsible for.Identify, document, and communicate any additional videos from partners that are available and topics that people need.Identify, document, and communicate ICT hubs, burning/resource centres, etc., and add them to the stakeholder maps.Monitor progress & impact utilizing Access Agriculture’s Monitoring App.									
Activity Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for DAESS on how to document, store, access, use, and track available videos.Five people from each district (7 from Lilongwe) with capacity to utilize the Access to Videos SOP and train other District and Area platforms.									
Benefits to DAESS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved access to high quality educational videos that can be viewed on simple phones, tablets, or TV screens found in almost all communities. <p>From the action planning session, the following commitments were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Access Agriculture shared all available Access Agriculture videos (large size) to DAECC secretariats;All DAECCs and ASPs agreed to discuss & document at their next DAECC and ASP meeting what can be done to improve access to videos based on what was learned and will ask on WhatsApp (or other method) about who already knows about the DJs or using videos;Balaka DAECC plans to add the Access Agriculture DJs to their Kumu map and will invite DJs to their next DAECC and ASP meetings;MH and NE added Access Agriculture to the DAECC communication.									
Progress towards SANE’s indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">In 2019, 6,000 farmers (1,000 per DAESS) from 120 VACs /farmers groups (20 per DAESS) will watch and learn from video extension services (at least 60% female and 30% youth under 30 years of age).									
Participant quote/s:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">“With DAECC, DSP, ASP, VAC districts are ready for any intervention so partners should not feel obstructed at national level.”“The existence of DJ provides an awesome opportunity to agricultural extension to farmers.”“I have learned that even our local simple phones can be used to view agriculture videos.”									

4) Activity Title:	IHF with HHA Collaboration Training									
Activity Date:	4-7 June 2019					Date of report:	7 June 2019			
Districts involved:	Balaka									
Activity Venue:	Red Cross then ASPs and ANCCs									
DAESS focal point:	AGRESSO, Glyn Chitete, glynchitete@yahoo.com , 0993-420-826									
SANE focal point:	NES, Stacia Nordin, 0999-333-073 Nordin@illinois.edu									
Participants Total:	177		Female:	69	Male:	108	<30: %	31	>30: %	146
			%:	39%	%:	61%		18%		82%
Participant Type:	Farmer:	121	Gov:	48	Private	1	NGO/CSO %	7	Other:	0
	%	68%	%	27%	%	0.5%		4%		%
Participating Organizations (names):	Gov:		MoAIWD/ADD, MoLGRD, MoEST, MoGSW, MoCECCD, Forestry, MoICE, MoH							
	Private:		ETG							
	NSO/CSO:		MSH, Eagles, ADES, NAYORG, LTV, UP							
	Other:									
Participating Platforms (#, names):	District:		DAECC, DSP, DNCC							
	ASP/ANCCs:		5 – Amidu, Chanthunya, Nkaya, Nsamala, Phalula							
	VACs/VNCCs:		see list below							
Activity Purpose:	• To coordinate IHF-HHA service delivery through the DAESS platforms in collaboration with NCC.									
Activity Objectives:	• To coordinate IHF/HHA through DAESS in collaboration with NCCs’ platforms with the aim of reaching all households in an organized manner. • Develop a clear, agreed plan (road map) for IHF/HHA implementation throughout the District.									
Activity Outputs:	• A clear, agreed plan (road map) for IHF/HHA implementation throughout the District.									
Benefits to DAESS:	• Strengthen coordination and collaboration around agricultural and nutrition extension.									
Progress towards SANE’s indicators:	• Improved capacity of and coordination between DAESS and NCC platforms.									
Participant quote/s:	• “First thing I met the SANE staff yesterday who asked me if I have a vision myself and I think this is where we need to start, with ourselves.” – Edward Katunga									
ASP	Amidu		Chanthunya		Nkaya		Nsamala		Phalula	
VACs	1. Amidu 2. Chatama 3. Chibwana 4. Katapila 5. Mdala 6. Mjale 7. Mkwekwere 8. Mwalabu 9. Namwela 10. Ngasale 11. Sumani		1. Chanthunya 2. Chanthunya 2 3. Chimpakati 4. Chimpakati Chanza 5. James 6. Majyelatu 7. Makolela 8. Manjanja 9. Maiton 10. Siliya		1. Chakarza 2. Chikubwa 3. Kapyimbo 4. Kantwanje 5. Khwalala 6. Mbuza 7. Mgomwa 8. Mhuuma 9. Naweta 10. Njelenje 11. Nkaya 12. Phimbi		1. Chemekezo 2. Chitala 3. Kampeni 4. Kapulamula 5. Khoswe 6. Lupanga 7. Mbatamila 8. Mpulula 9. Msamala 10. Nchenga 11. Wachinsomba 12. Semani 13. Zalimu 14. Zidyana 15. several not given		1. Chizungu 2. Govati 3. Kunthambo 4. Mthawitsa 5. Ntchona 6. Phalula	

5) Activity Title:	IHF with HHA Collaboration Training									
Activity Date:	10-14 June 2019					Date of report:	8 July 2019			
Districts involved:	Machinga									
Activity Venue:	Water Office then ASPs									
DAESS focal point:	Betty Tholo, FNO, tholobetty@gmail.com , 0999-936-494, 0888-343-706									
SANE focal point:	NES, Stacia Nordin, 0999-333-073 Nordin@illinois.edu									
Participants Total:	139 ASP level		Female:	38	Male:	101	<30:	28	>30:	111
			%:	25%	%:	75%		%		17%
Participant Type:	Farmer:	81	Gov:	53	Private	1	NGO/CSO	4	Other:	0
	%	58.3		%		38.1		%		0.7
Participating Organizations (names):	Gov:		MoAIWD, MoH, MoICE, MoGSW, MoCECCD							
	Private:		Agrodealer							
	NSO/CSO:		DAPP, MACOHA, WESM, MOEST							
	Other:		none							
Participating Platforms (#, names):	District:		DAECC, DNCC, District Gender TWG							
	ASP/ANCCs:		Mlomba, Nsanama, Ngokwe, and Chikweo							
	VACs/VNCCs:		See below							
			<u>Chikweo</u> Adamusoni, Chikweo, Chisumbi, Lisanjale, Msopo, Natuma, Nyama, Saiti							
		<u>Ng'andu</u> Chidothi, Chilonga, Chitapa, Dinyi, Khungwa, Mkawera, Mpacha, Mwekuwa, Nachanje, Ng'andu, Selemani, Thomba, Thukuta								
		<u>Nsanama</u> Atepo, Chatayika, Chikwakwata, Chimela, Chipaka, Chisuwi, Chiwanda, Joho, Khuzumba, Lupangwe, Makumba, Makunganya, M'balaka, Mjoho, Mlomba, Molipa, Mpita, Mtokoma, Muheliwa, Namitoso, Namiyanga, Petekule, Pulika, Saidi Mataka, Swaibu								
Activity Purpose:	To promote implementation of IHF-HHA approaches through the DAESS platforms in collaboration with NCC.									
Activity Objectives:	To strengthen coordination and collaboration on IHF/HHA interventions among sectors for sustainability. Road map on IHF/HHA implementation throughout the TAs and GVHs in Machinga.									
Activity Outputs:	Number of homes and offices practising IHF/HHA within the 4 ASPs. A clear, agreed plan (road map) for harmonized implementation of IHF/HHA throughout the District.									
Benefits to DAESS:	Participants agreed to: 1. Develop a clear roadmap for improving IHF HHA coordination as there wasn't time during the training 2. Identify all IHF and HHA households by TA as it wasn't available during the training 3. Increase IHF and HHA facilitators and communication about trainings 4. Improve planning to balance field visit distance with training venues, available transport and resources 5. Increase number of IHF and HHA role models in strategic location to reduce distances for field visits 6. Improve participation of women and youth in ASPs 7. Establish DSP to open District – TA level communication 8. Increase understanding of IHF and HHA by partners for application at DAECC/DNCC homes and office and establishment of regular joint backstopping of ASPs and ANCCs and consistent reporting 9. Implement DSAP Reports will be submitted by the 4 group leaders to Chairs of DNCC and DAECC for submission to DAECC and DNCC shortly thereafter.									
Progress towards SANE's indicators:	To increase adoption of IHF/HHA through DAESS coordination and collaboration.									
Participant quote/s:	N/A									

6) Activity Title:	Coordination Skills & Systems Training									
Activity Date:	18-21 June 2019					Date of report:	24 June 2019			
Districts involved:	Mangochi									
Activity Venue:	DAECC, Nkhope ASP & 5 VACs: Balamanja, Chigonere, Kanyenga, Nsumbi, Zimba Yuda									
DAESS focal point:	Adam Kabango, AEMO-MH DAO, 0999044489, adamkabango@yahoo.co.uk									
SANE focal point:	NES, Stacia Nordin, 0999-333-073 Nordin@illinois.edu									
Participants Total:	181		F:	70	Male:	111	<30:	22	>30:	159
			%:	39%	%:	61%	%	12%	%	88%
Participant Type:	Farmer:	146	Gov:	30	Private	0	NGO/CSO	5	Other:	0
	%	81%	%	17%	%	0%	%	3%	%	0%
Participating Organizations (names):	• Gov:		MoAIWD several departments							
	• Private:		None							
	• NSO/CSO:		SEEED, CWW, NASFAM							
	• Other:		None							
Participating Platforms (#, names):	• District:		DAECC							
	• ASP/ANCCs:		2 ASPs: Nkope, Jalasi							
	• VACs/VNCCs:		5 VACs: Balamanja, Chigonere, Kanyenga, Nsumbi, Zimba Yuda							
Activity Purpose & Brief Results:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To improve Nkope and Jalasi ASPs in terms of report writing, utilization of SOPs for meetings, and resource mobilization strategies for sustainability.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nkope ASP hosted Jalasi ASP for a learning visit since Nkope has grasped DAESS and put in place systems, such as using participatory stakeholder mapping tools for identifying who is doing what, where, and how.On day two of the training DAECC worked with Nkope ASP to reach out to 5 VACs with the same training topics with much emphasis on stakeholder mapping and record keeping.									
Activity Objectives & brief results:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To understand ASP functionality in terms of stakeholder coordination and collaboration at ASP level, i.e. vertical and horizontal information flow;<ul style="list-style-type: none">Both ASPs shared with whom they communicate in and across platforms. Nkope includes work with the Zimwe community radio to reach further and faster.To appreciate how SOPs for ASP/VAC meetings are used;<ul style="list-style-type: none">Neither ASP or DAECC members brought the SOPs with them but they discussed them and how they are helping to guide ASP meetings and tasks.To share experiences on FAW monitoring and response using DAESS platforms;<ul style="list-style-type: none">Both districts shared information on using the monitoring traps, pesticides from the secretariat, and natural treatments. Close monitoring and early response for any infestation was a key message. DAECC will follow DAES reports closely in case additional intervention is needed at DAECC level.To share experiences on ASP/VAC sustainability mechanisms, which includes funding; and<ul style="list-style-type: none">Most VACs are collecting 200 MK from each member. Innovative ideas heard include learning from NGO trainings on doing businesses and VSL and applying the skills to the VAC; running a business of renting out a sprayer; plans to run a VAC farm; running an animal drug box; fines for being late to meetings and one group is raising money to buy a sprayer and treadle pump for hire.DAECC agreed that we need to document practical ideas, successes and challenges for DAESS platform funding as none of the DAESS clarified guides or SOPs go into detail.To learn about stakeholder mapping (for Nkope, they will extend their stakeholder maps).<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nkope wasn't able to do a demonstration for Jalasi as they'd planned as they ran out of time, but Nkope worked with 5 of the VACs on mapping on day two and 18 topics were mapped including an association, projects and NGOs (see outputs)									
Activity Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Development of ASP stakeholder maps for key agricultural interventions which will feed into the DAECC map, and									

6) Activity Title:	Coordination Skills & Systems Training
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – 18 new topics added to the map: https://kumu.io/bafema/mangochi-daecc. • Development of a report and action plan on mechanisms to strengthen both the host and visiting ASP in terms of functionality, sustainability, and collaboration with other relevant structures through stakeholder mapping. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The DAECC members involved agreed to submit action plans to DAECC: Sumbi ; Balamanja; Kanyenga; Zimbayuda; Chigonele
Benefits to DAESS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved coordination of partners will enable better leveraging of existing resources with higher impact for households.
Progress towards SANE's indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This activity contributed toward indicator 2.1.3 "Percentage of DAESS platforms making decisions that improve collaboration, coordination, and co-location to maximize synergies".
Participant quote/s:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Jalasi ASP provided MK 20,000 as contribution to the activity which was used for fuelling the district vehicle." Jalasi ASP member

7) Activity Title:	Improving Gender in DAESS									
Activity Date:	25-28 June 2019					Date of report:	8 July 2019			
Districts involved:	Lilongwe (with Dedza, Ntcheu facilitation)									
Activity Venue:	SANE, Riverside Hotel									
DAESS focal point:	DAECC Lilongwe AGRESSO (West), Webster Jassi, 0888-535-603, 0996-115-503, JassiWebster@gmail.com DAECC Lilongwe AGRESSO (East), Esnart Kalunga, 0999-658-836, 0881-884-783, SamuelEsnart@yahoo.com									
SANE focal point:	NES, Stacia Nordin, 0999-333-073 Nordin@illinois.edu									
Participants Total:	56	F: %:	45	Male: %:	11	<30: %	23	>30: %	23	
	50 ASP		73%		27%		35%		65%	
	6 Dist		84% ASP		16% ASP		44% ASP		56% ASP	
* Ratios of F:M and <:> 30 were better for ASP level than District level so they are separated out.										
Participant Type:	Farmer:	50	Gov:	6	Private	0	NGO	0	Other:	0
	%	67%	%	33%	%	0%	%	9%	%	0%
Participating Organizations (names):	• Gov:		MoAIWD / ADD, MoLGRD							
	• Private:		0							
	• NGO/CSO:		0							
	• Other:		0							
Participating Platforms (#, names):	• District:		DAECC, DNCC, District Gender TWG							
	• ASP/ANCCs:		2: Kalumbu, Njewa							
	• VACs/VNCCs:		36 – see list below							
Activity Purpose & brief results:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To break down the barriers of female participation, inclusion, and involvement in agricultural extension and advisory services.<ul style="list-style-type: none">Barriers were identified and actions were agreed by ASP to address them together.									
Activity Objectives & brief results:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Build on past gender analyses to unearth and examine the key issues blocking female and youth participation in agriculture extension and advisory services;<ul style="list-style-type: none">The gender balance trees and discussions unearthed issues that need to be addressed and further issues will be identified and addressed by ASPs as they understand the process tool.Learn about the Gender Transformative approach to create actions to work on with their ASPs and VACs in improving female and youth participation;<ul style="list-style-type: none">The post-assessments reported that participants achieved this.Be able to plan, implement, track, and monitor activities to assure at least 50% female and 30% youth participation;<ul style="list-style-type: none">ASPs reported at the end of the training that they will be able to monitor participation in their activities.Have an improved Agriculture Gender training concept to continue to use with other DAESS platforms;<ul style="list-style-type: none">The concept was improved but further improvements were pended to a planning meeting with additional DAECC members in July.									
Activity Outputs & brief results:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">ASP Action plans were developed.Notes and agreements were captured on how to improve the training for the next set of ASPs.									
Benefits to DAESS:	Improved representation of farmers by encouraging females and youth participation in DAESS activities.									
Progress towards SANE’s indicators:	Improved participation of Females and Youth									
Participant quote/s:	N/A									
ASPs:	Njewa					Kalumbu				
VACs:	1. Chigwedera		10. Mlezi			1. Chikanda		10. Mkomba		
	2. Chikuthe		11. Mngwedela			2. Chikhombe		11. Mkwera		
	3. Chimangasasa		12. Mngwenje			3. Kalumbu		12. Mthesa		
	4. Chithope		13. Muzu			4. Kamphata		13. Namumba		

7) Activity Title:	Improving Gender in DAESS			
	5. Gidiyele	14. Nakuwawa	5. Kuchitala	14. Ngwena
	6. Kusiyafulmbi	15. Njwa	6. Maenje	15. Nyundo
	7. M'chokoni	16. Sankhani Chigwendera	7. Makanya	16. Sadzola
	8. Mchekeni	17. Sankhani Waku mwale	8. Mchakulu	17. Sonkhwe
	9. Mkwaila	18. Tambala	9. Mhinga	18. Thondolo

8) Activity Title:		Orientation of Blantyre DNCC on DAESS											
Activity Date:		17 June 2019					Date of report:		24 June 2019				
Districts involved:		Blantyre											
Activity Venue:		Blantyre District Council Chamber											
DAESS focal point:		Leslie Kacheche, FNO, 0888 389 440. lesliekacheche@yahoo.com											
SANE focal point:		ANES, Takondwa Minjale, 0999 276 387. takondwa.minjale@crs.org											
Participants Total:		20		F:	13	Male:	7	<30:		2	>30:		18
				%:	65%	%:	35%			%			10%
Participant Type:		Farmer:	0	Gov:	18	Private	1	NGO/CSO		1	Other:		0
		%	0%	%	90%	%	5%			%			5%
Participating Organizations (names):		Gov:			Agriculture, Education, Gender, Forestry, Information, Youth, Trade, Fisheries, Irrigation, Health, Water								
		Private:			Monsanto								
		NSO/CSO:			Perm-A-Outreach								
		Other:											
Participating Platforms (#, names):		District:			DAECC, DNCC								
		ASP/ANCCs:			No ASPs were involved								
		VACs/VNCCs:			No VACs were involved								
Activity Purpose:		To improve collaboration between DAESS platforms and Nutrition coordination committees.											
Activity Objectives:		To orient DNCC members on DAESS. To share, discuss and set dates for activities on nutrition in DSAP.											
Activity Outputs:		20 members of DAECC and DNCC oriented on the DAESS. A draft joint work plan for DAECC and DNCC was developed.											
Benefits to DAESS:		DAESS and its objectives shared with Agriculture related coordination committees. Improved collaboration between DAESS platforms and NCCs promoted.											
Progress towards SANE’s indicators:		This activity contributed toward indicator 2.3 “Improve capacities and strengthen coordination, with a focus on integrated agriculture and nutrition”.											
Participant quote/s:		N/A											

9) Activity Title:	Training of Dedza DSP on Improving Functionality and Sustainability									
Activity Date:	29-30 April 2019					Date of report:	3 May 2019			
Districts involved:	Dedza									
Activity Venue:	Dedza District Council Chamber									
DAESS focal point:	Roxhina Malamba, EMO, 0888 368 026. wangisamalamba@yahoo.co.uk									
SANE focal point:	ANES, Takondwa Minjale, 0999 276 387. takondwa.minjale@crs.org									
Participants Total:	34		F:	9	Male:	25	<30:	1	>30:	33
			%:	26%	%:	74%		%		3%
Participant Type:	Farmer:	9	Gov:	21	Private	0	NGO/CSO	4	Other:	0
	%	26%	%	62%	%	0%		%		12%
Participating Organizations (names):	• Gov:		Council secretariat, Agriculture, Fisheries, Irrigation							
	• Private:									
	• NSO/CSO:		United Purpose, CADECOM, ARET							
	• Other:									
Participating Platforms (#, names):	• District:		DAECC, DNCC, DSP							
	• ASP		Chauma, Chilikumwendo, Kachere, Kachindamoto, Kamenyagwaza, Kaphuka, Kasumbu, Tambala							
	• VACs/VNCCs:		VACs were represented by members also on the above ASPs.							
Activity Purpose:	• To build the DSP’s understanding of the DAESS and its platforms, promote functionality, and plan for sustainability of DSP activities.									
Activity Objectives:	• To orient participants on the DAESS, its platforms and linkages to other coordination structures. • To share SANE progress and plans. • To orient DSP on SOPs. • To identify mechanisms for DAESS/DSP sustainability.									
Activity Outputs:	• 34 participants trained on DAESS, its platforms and functionality. • Mechanisms for sustainability of the DAESS were also identified.									
Benefits to DAESS:	• Capacity of DAESS platforms to improve functionality improved. • Mechanisms for sustainability of DAESS identified.									
Progress towards SANE’s indicators:	• This activity contributed toward indicator 2.2 “Improve capacities and strengthen coordination within DAESS”.									
Participant quote/s:	• N/A									

10) Activity Title:	Training DAESS platforms on governance and accountability									
Activity Date:	2-3 May 2019					Date of report:	10 May 2019			
Districts involved:	Blantyre									
Activity Venue:	Lunzu RTC									
DAESS focal point:	Fortune Kapingiri, DAECC chair, 0888 795 594. kapongorokuchololo@gmail.com									
SANE focal point:	ANES, Takondwa Minjale, 0999 276 387. takondwa.minjale@crs.org									
Participants Total:	49		F:	27	Male:	22	<30:	7	>30:	42
			%:	55%	%:	45%	%	14%	%	86%
Participant Type:	Farmer:	22	Gov:	22	Private	1	NGO/CSO	4	Other:	0
	%	45%	%	45%	%	2%	%	8%	%	0%
Participating Organizations (names):	Gov:		Council secretariat, Agriculture, Community Development, Education, Information, Health							
	Private:		ACE							
	NSO/CSO:		Perm-A-Outreach, FOCOLD, TLC, One Acre Fund							
	Other:		None							
Participating Platforms (#, names):	District:		DAECC, DNCC							
	ASP		Machinjiri A, Machinjiri B, Lundu, Kuntaja, Kunthembwe, Kapeni C, Makata, Kapeni B, Chigalu, Somba							
	VACs/VNCCs:		VACs were represented by members also on the above ASPs.							
Activity Purpose:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To mobilise DAESS and nutrition coordination platforms to take a more proactive role in agriculture and nutrition extension coordination and ensure that service providers are more accountable to farmers.									
Activity Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To orient participants on the DAESS, its platforms, and linkages to other coordination structures.To orient participants on governance, accountability, and advocacy.To identify areas for CSO engagement in agricultural and nutrition extension coordination and promotion of accountability.									
Activity Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">49 participants trained on DAESS, its platforms, and linkages with other coordination committees.Participants trained on governance and accountability.									
Benefits to DAESS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Improved capacity of DAESS platforms to hold service providers accountable to farmers.									
Progress towards SANE’s indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This activity contributed toward indicator 2.2 “Improve capacities and strengthen coordination within DAESS”.									
Participant quote/s:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">N/A									

11) Activity Title:	Training VACs and VNCCs on Strengthening Nutrition in Field Days									
Activity Date:	10-14 and 18-21 June 2019					Date of report:	30 June 2019			
Districts involved:	Mchinji and Chikwawa									
Activity Venue:	Various ASPs									
DAESS focal point:	Rita Makwakwa, EMO. 0997 774 312, ritamakwakwa@gmail.com Madalitso Makondi, AGRESSO. 0888 179 553, madalitsomakondi@yahoo.com									
SANE focal point:	ANES, Takondwa Minjale, 0999 276 387. takondwa.minjale@crs.org									
Participants Total:	375		F:	160	Male:	215	<30:	129	>30:	246
			%:	43%	%:	57%		%		34%
Participant Type:	Farmer:	339	Gov:	30	Private	0	NGO/CSO	6	Other:	0
	%	90%	%	8%	%	0%		%		2%
Participating Organizations (names):	Gov:		Council secretariat, Agriculture, Community Development, Education, Information, Health							
	Private:		None							
	NSO/CSO:		WFPO, Eagles, TLC, Mary’s Meals, CRECCOM, CADECOM							
	Other:		None							
Participating Platforms (#, names):	District:		DAECC, DNCC							
	ASP		Simphasi, Dambe and Mduwa ASPs in Mchinji Katunga, Mlilima and Maseya ASPs in Chikwawa							
	VACs/VNCCs:		Chikwawa VACs ; Bello, Chambuluka, Dziwazina, Elene, Frank, Gomani, John, Josephy, Kadzumba, Kalima, Katemalinga, Matchena, M’bande, Misili, Mkwana, Namira, Namula, Sikelo, Ulemu Mchinji VACs : Chalunda, Chimongo, Chioko, Chioshya, Chiuzeni, Chiwete, Kachaje, Kakuda, Kakunga, Kalembe, Kalulu, Kamangira, Kapondo, Kathyuka, Khwere, Kulema, Ligeliyo, Madzi, Mando, Matimba, Mazenga, Mbachundu, M’dakwa, Mduwa, Mkangala, Mikuwa, Mkumbi, Mphomwa, Msuzi, Mtamadzango, Muniuma, Nthema, Panye, Thako							
Activity Purpose:	To facilitating collaboration between DAESS platforms and NCCs towards strengthening nutrition in agricultural extension.									
Activity Objectives:	To orient participants on DAESS and nutrition coordination system. To share the importance of strengthening nutrition in agricultural extension. To pretest guidelines for integrating nutrition in Fields Days through VAC/VNCC trainings.									
Activity Outputs:	375 participants oriented on the importance of strengthening nutrition in agricultural extension. Guidelines for integrating nutrition in Field Days pretested.									
Benefits to DAESS:	Improved collaboration between DAESS platforms and NCCS resulting in strengthened nutrition in DAESS.									
Progress towards SANE’s indicators:	This activity contributed toward indicator 2.3 “Improve capacities and strengthen coordination, with a focus on integrated agriculture and nutrition”.									
Participant quote/s:	“We have now realized the importance of collaboration between VACs and nutrition committees towards supporting nutrition. Previously, VACs and nutrition extension agents were working in isolation but it is important to collaborate from the farm to the table. We will ensure that we always display nutrition products made from crops that will be showcased during field days” - Hannock Sifoliyano Banda, Fisheries Lead Farmer, Nkangala VAC, Mduwa ASP, Mchinji.									

12) Activity Title:	Training for Staff in FAW Research Protocol									
Activity Date:	7 May 2019					Date of report:	15 May 2019			
Districts involved:	Lilongwe, Blantyre, Ntcheu, Mangochi and Nsanje									
Activity Venue:	Bvumbwe Research Station									
DAESS focal point(s)	Lilongwe: Bertha Nkhoma, 0888727205, berthaelifasi@yahoo.com Mangochi: Maria Chabakha, 0888174294, chabakhamayamiko@gmail.com Nsanje: Grace Banda, 0997746358, gbgracebanda@gmail.com Ntcheu: Romeo Manda 0888570319, mandahend@yahoo.com Blantyre: Sam Ngwira 0888510319 samsonngwira@hotmail.com									
SANE focal point:	AES, Boaz Mandula, 0888301181, boaz.mandula@crs.org									
Participants Total:	72		F:	17	Male:	55	<30:	12	>30:	60
			%:	23%	%:	76%		%		16%
Participant Type:	Farmer:	18	Gov:	54	Private:	0	NGO/CSO	0	Other:	0
	%	25%	%	75%	%	0%	%	0%	%	0%
Participating Organizations (names):	• Gov:		DAECC &ADD (Crop Protection Officers) Researchers, AEDOs							
	• Private:		None							
	• NSO/CSO:		None							
	• Farmers:		ASP representatives, Lead Farmers							
Participating Platforms (#, names):	• District:		DAECC, ASPs							
	• ASP		Chileka, Malili, Masambankhunda, Chowe, Lower Makwangwala, Lower Njolomole, Somba. Chigalu, Kalolo, Mbenje, Ngabu							
	• VACs/VNCCs:		VACs not captured, but scheme names shown – Enock, Ngalu, Chigalu, Batani, Kanyoza, Chikalema, Malingano, Tiyanjane							
Activity Purpose:	• To enable all implementing officers to have a better understanding of the research objective and other research requirements.									
Activity Objectives:	• To orient frontline staff and other key stakeholders on the FAW research protocol. • To discuss data needs for the research activity. • To develop action plans for implementing the research on local controls for FAW. • To discuss opportunities for strengthening extension-research linkages through the FAW research.									
Activity Outputs:	• Increased understanding of the FAW research by field implementers. • Action plans to guide implementation of field programs developed by each participating district.									
Benefits to DAESS:	• Increased understanding on the roles of DAESS in the research activity. • Increased opportunities for interactions between research and DAESS platforms.									
Progress towards SANE’s indicators:	• This activity contributed toward indicator 3.2.1 “Number of individuals who have received SANE - supported short term agricultural sector productivity or food security training”.									
Participant quote/s:	• N/A									

13) Activity Title:		Training of VACs in DAESS and SOPs													
Activity Date:		Nsanje: 15-16 April 2019				Date of report:		20 June 2019							
		Chikwawa: 69 May 2019													
		Lilongwe: 15-17 May 2019 and 6-7 June 2019													
Districts involved:		Nsanje, Lilongwe, Chikwawa,													
Activity Venue:		Various ASPs													
DAESS focal point:		Chikwawa, Madalitso Makondi, 0888179553, madalisomakondi@yahoo.com													
		Nsanje, Whytone Fole, 0991935652, whytonesfole@gmail.com													
		Lilongwe: Ruth Mhone, 0884535224													
		Dedza: Roxhina Malamba, EMO, 0888 368 026. wangisamalamba@yahoo.co.uk													
SANE focal point:		Ntcheu: Kumbukani Mdalira, FNO, 0991 282 863													
		Nsanje, Chikwawa: AES Boaz Mandula, 0888301181, boaz.mandula@crs.org													
Participants Total:		1454		F:		498	Male:		956	<30:		250	>30:		1,202
				%		34%	%		66%	%		17%	%		83%
Participant Type:		Farmer:	1,308	Gov:	131	Private	0	NGO/CSO	15	Other:	0				
		%	90%		%		9%		%		0%	%	1%	%	0%
Participating Organizations (names):		• Gov:		Council secretariat, Agriculture, Health											
		• Private:		None											
		• NSO/CSO:		Eagles, Concern Worldwide, Goal Malawi											
		• Other:		None											
Participating Platforms (#, names):		• District:		DAECC, DNCC, DAC											
		• ASP		Chikwawa: Kasisi, Mulilima, Ndakwera, Chapananga, Makhwira, Masache, Katunga, Maseya, Ngabu, Lundu, Ngowe Nsanje: Mlolo, Malemia, Tengani, Nyachikadza, Ndamera, Makoko, Chimombo, Ngabu, Mbenje Lilongwe: Chimutu, Chitukula, Chitekwere, Chadza, Mazengera, Kalumbu Dedza: Chauma, Chilikumwendo, Kachere, Kachindamoto, Kamenyagwaza, Kaphuka, Kasumbu, Tambala Ntcheu: Chakhumbira, Champiti, Kwataine, Lower Ganya, Lower Makwangwala, Lower Masasa, Lower Njolomole, Mpando, Phambala, Tsikulamowa, Upper Ganya, Upper Makwangwala, Upper Masasa, Upper Njolomole											
		• VACs/VNCCs:		Chikwawa VACs; Frank, Elene, Kadzumba, M’bande, Josephy, Katemalinga, Kalima, Chambuluka, Mkwana, Matchena, Misili, Dziwazina, Bello, Namula, Gomani, Ulemu, Sikelo, John, Namira, Dedza Chilikumwendo VACs; Aron, Kapiwira, Kuthambala, Chimamba mtengo, Kapichila, Kawelama, Ng’ombeyagwada, Richard, Chidewere, Kantukule, Chamangwana Chauma VACs; Chauma, Kuchombe, Mbilima, Biwi Jemusi, Mnembe, Chonde, Khwakhwa, Ngokho, Mitawa, and Kamphinda Kachere VACs; Kachere, Gwaza, Kamenya, Kumitengo, Thambolanga, Kachule, Petulosi, Lodzanyama, Kamamwanikwawo, Chimalira, Gilipati, Chiphe, Langisoni, Lob, Sitenala, Nandaya, Chithasa, Makwowa Kachindamoto VACs; Mchanja, Songwe, Chikolorere, Huwa, Ngwimbi, Kachindamoto, Msunduzeni, Dzindevu, Kakhoma, Kabulika 1, Kanzati, Bwanali, Chimkombero, Chikomba, Peter 1											

13) Activity Title:	Training of VACs in DAESS and SOPs
	<p>Kasumbu VACs; Chimphandu, Mkuphila, Kanyama, Kasumbu, Chiluzi, Chikuse, Tembwe, Kumayani, Kanyenda, Mbozi, Chinkuyu, Kapesi, Ngondo, Kakhomba, and Mpango</p> <p>Kaphuka VACs; Kaina, Chimasula, Nachikunga, Chikwasa, Kaphuka, Nthengo, Machiliko, Kasina, Mkopoka, Mtema</p> <p>Linthipe-Kaphuka VACs; Kabanja, Chiothera, Kakhane, Msekanye, Mboma, Kukada, Chisera, Kumterera, Khutamowa, Mphunda, Ungwe, Kwendekeza, Mbalila, Chimanda, Chaponda, Dzandi, Gundadzuwa, makoko, Chamwalamwanya, Makankhula, Gome, Kamonga, Huwa, Kangulu, Dambo</p> <p>Tambala VACs; Mtawanga, Maganga, Mapemba, Chimaliro, Mnyambi, Kapazira, Mkomba, Chambala, Chakweza, Tambala, Mlolo, Kudembe, Chinkhota, Gwengwe, Lodzanyama, Mangwiza, Mpima, Mtembwende, Mlenga, Mzinga</p> <p><u>Lilongwe</u></p> <p>Chimutu, Chitukula, Chitekwere, Chadza, Mazengera, Kalumbu, Kabudula, Mtema VACs; Kadala, Msundula, Kalumba, Chitukula, Mtuwaivi, Gwirize, Njanje, Lundu, Kambalani, Namkumba, Chitukula, Chizu 2, Kamphengule, Chinzu, Kasambwe, Mkuta, Kabudula, Kanyambwe, Khudzumba, Lukira, Msundulo, Muyande, Chimbayo, Chinyama, Nyundo, Mbalame, Chiwiri Nkoche, Chisamba, Nakuyele Milonde, Phula, Chiwiri Chilulu, Nsabwenhthunzi, Chinthankhwa, Kachono, Nakuyere, Chizumba, Chiweta, Namphande, Mlodzezi, Katayasenga, Khomani, Kwanji, Namaguya, Nsabwe manyaza, Khubwi Chawalo, Milonde, Mtande, Nsabwe Chidzinja, Kaphatenga, Chikonde Khomani, Mzingo, Kambulire, Kholongo, Mtema, Mndele, Mphonde, Mzumazi, Tsale, Bwatha, Makhwazi, Mkhlapadzuwa, Mtsukwa, Makumi, Taiza, Mseteza, Mwaza, Undi, Maselero, Chitululu, Mnjere, Kambulire 1, Kaning'a, Nyangu, M'ndawula, Kafutwe, Tembwe, Mseteza, Suntche, Nkhadani 1, Chizumba, Mtsukwa, Mzingo, Mphako, Chimbayo, Kapha, Mlezi, Malobvu, Mngwira, Mkabwe, Mngwizi, Tambala, Mngwangwa, Chiwoko, Chikhuthe, Mnkhanira, Mkambire</p> <p><u>Ntcheu</u></p> <p>Chakhumbira VACs; Jemusi, Lihako, Sabiti, Mpalale</p> <p>Champiti VACs; Malinda, Njolomole, Champiti, Chapha Nkhwani, Nzirilongwe, Malaswa, Malasula, Kabowe, Micholo, Malinda</p> <p>Kwataine VACs; Chikapa, Gwaza, Mingola, Chagwa</p> <p>Lower Masasa VACs; Kalumbu 1, Thawale, Khwiya, Minjere, Mtandika 1, Kadzungu, Yesaya 2, Kalumbu 2</p> <p>Lower Ganya VACs; Chikadya, Sitima, Mphoola, Kaiya, Kasinje 1, Manjanja, Kulanga, Sande, Chigwembere, Ndalamilu, Mnkwanji, Kasinje, Mafuwa</p> <p>Lower Makwangwala VACs; Juliyasi, Kalimajala, Sanjani, Mkutumula, Mapondera, Namboya, Piliwiza, Akubilira, Sanjani 1, Pengapenga, Gada, Kambuku, Makwangwala</p> <p>Lower Njolomole VACs; Muwalo, Fuko, Kadzombe, Chauluka, Tsanulani, Tchauya, Kamwaza</p> <p>Mpando VACs; Madana, Doviko, Kayinga, Gochi, Katsekera, Songaye</p> <p>Phambala VACs; No VACs indicated</p> <p>Tsikulamowa VACs; Manjawira, Kasinja, Mpochele, Nkande, Chikhasu, Tsikulamowa, Matale, Senzani, Mwenye</p> <p>Upper Ganya VACs; Tchale, Tchale 1, Tchale 2, Tchale 3, Bangwe, Chinsangwi</p> <p>Upper Makwangwala VACs; Saiwa, Makwangwala, Mmemo, Gwaza, Damison, Kuthakwanasi, Gumbi, Nsiyaludzu</p> <p>Upper Masasa VACs; Yosefe, Chapita, Yoyola, Timote, Kadambo, Kalima, Mandere</p>

13) Activity Title:	Training of VACs in DAESS and SOPs	
		Upper Njolomole VACs; Mlangeni, Kadzakalowa, Njolomole, Kacheyo
Activity Objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To orient VACs on DAESS guidelines and SOPs for running effective platforms. • To identify opportunities for collaboration among ASPs, ADCs, and ANCCs. 	
Activity Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased understanding among VAC members on the DAESS, including: guidelines for establishing DAESS platforms, composition, roles, and responsibilities. • Increased knowledge among platform members on how to effectively engage stakeholders to support implementation of activities at VAC level. • Action plans for implementation of activities developed. 	
Benefits to DAESS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased understanding of roles and responsibilities for all VACs and ASPs and how to engage effectively with other platforms at community level. • Increased capacity to articulate farmers' demands and channel them to appropriate structures. 	
Progress towards SANE's indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This activity contributed toward indicator 3.2.1 "Number of individuals who have received SANE - supported short term agricultural sector productivity or food security training". 	
Participant quote/s:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "These trainings have been very helpful. All along we never knew that as a VAC we needed also to be linking with other platforms such as the nutrition committees and 'nutrition promoters'. We were only linking with the VDC and ADC. Now we will start working together and planning together." Rose William VAC representative, Malemia ASP, Nsanje 	

14) Activity Title: Training of staff in Fall armyworm monitoring using FAMEWS mobile app											
Activity Date:		Nsanje: 18-19 June 2019 Chikwawa: 19-21 June 2019				Date of report:		30 June 2019			
Districts involved:		Nsanje, Chikwawa,									
Activity Venue:		Various ASPs									
DAESS focal point:		Nsanje: Grace Banda, 0997746358, gbrancebanda@gmail.com Chikwawa: Lewis Lpenga, 0884076921; llipenga@gmail.com									
SANE focal point:		AES Boaz Mandula, 0888301181, boaz.mandula@crs.org									
Participants Total:		47		F: %:	6 0.13%	Male: %:	41 87%	<30: %	9 19%	>30: %	38 80%
Participant Type:		Farmer: %	21 45%	Gov: %	23 49%	Private %	0 0%	NGO/CSO %	3 0.06%	Other: %	Farmer: % 0%
Participating Organizations (names):		Gov:		Council secretariat, Agriculture							
		Private:									
		NSO/CSO:		Concern Worldwide, Islamic Relief							
		Other:		ASP representatives from Nsanje ASPs							
Participating Platforms (#, names):		District:		DAECC, DAC							
		ASP		Chikwawa: Kasisi, Mulilima, Ndakwera, Chapananga, Makhwira, Masache, Katunga, Maseya, Ngabu, Lundu, Ngowe Nsanje: Mlolo, Malemia, Tengani, Nyachikadza, Ndamera, Makoko, Chimombo, Ngabu, Mbenje							
		VACs/VNCCs:		Chikwawa VACs: Frank, Elene, Kadzumba, M’bande, Josephy, Katemalinga, Kalima, Chambuluka, Mkwana, Matchena, Misili, Dziwazina, Bello, Namula, Gomani, Ulemu, Sikelo, John, Namira, Nsanje VACS: Mwendonthengo, Damba, Mtondo, Tengani, Ntolongo, Pangeti, Kachere, Nyanthumbi, Zhuwaki, Osiyana, Kamphata, Kachaso, Sabao, Tizola, Chimombo, Fransika, Meke, Phiso, Kandeya, Mongo, Nyachiadza, Mkupila, Msusa, Mlemba, Mpambachulu, Chitomeni, Dimba, Gulumba, Mailosi, Nyathando, Yayilesi, Mphampha, Mchacha, Alufandika, Ndemera, Mtema, Siyankhuni, Fachi, Kaudzu, Ngabu, Mbenje, Kanyama, Malekeza, Mbangu, Magulugulu, Davite, Kaleso, Nyang’a, Magoti, Kalupsya, Nguluwe, Tambo, Nyanjidzi, Kalumbi, Chadzuka, Mkango, Chagwiragalu							
Activity Objectives:		<ul style="list-style-type: none">To orient frontline staff on how to monitor fall armyworm infestations using the FAMEWS mobile app.To discuss how information generated through the FAMEWS can be utilized at platform level.To identify and discuss potential problems that can be encountered when using the app and find solutions.									
Activity Outputs:		<ul style="list-style-type: none">185 staff trained on how to use the FAMEWS app to record data, take scouting surveys, and generate reports.Opportunities for sharing data generated by FAMEWS with ASPs and community forecasters identified.Action plans for replacing and commissioning FAW traps developed.									
Benefits to DAESS:		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased capacity for DAESS platforms to operationalise a system for monitoring and responding to crop pests and diseases.									
Progress towards SANE’s indicators:		<ul style="list-style-type: none">This activity contributed toward indicator 3.2.1 “Number of individuals who have received SANE - supported short term agricultural sector productivity or food security training”.									
Participant quote/s:		“It’s exciting that finally we will be putting these tablets into good use. I look forward to working with farmers in my sections conducting regular scouting and checking updates of infestations on this tablet.” Biziwick Chabwera, AEDO. Makhwira ASP, Chikwawa.									

15) Activity Title:	Orientation of Chikwawa DSP									
Activity Date:	9 May 2019					Date of report:	20 May 2019			
Districts involved:	Chikwawa,									
Activity Venue:	Chikwawa District Agriculture Office									
DAESS focal point:	Chikwawa, Madalitso Makondi, 0888179553, madalisomakondi@yahoo.com									
SANE focal point:	Chikwawa: AES Boaz Mandula, 0888301181, boaz.mandula@crs.org									
Participants Total:	26		F:	2	Male:	24	<30:	8	>30:	18
			%:	0.1%	%:	96%	%	30%	%	69%
Participant Type:	Farmer:		Gov:	23	Private	0	NGO/CSO	3	Other:	0
	%	90%	%	92%	%	0%	%	0.12%	%	0%
Participating Organizations (names):	• Gov:		Council secretariat, Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry							
	• Private:									
	• NSO/CSO:		Eagles, Goal Malawi, CADECOM							
	• Other:									
Participating Platforms (#, names):	• District:		DAECC							
	• ASP		11 ASPs - Kasisi, Mulilima, Ndakwera, Chapananga, Makhwira, Masache, Katunga, Maseya, Ngabu, Lundu, Ngowe							
	• VACs/VNCCs:		Frank, Elene, Kadzumba, M'bande, Josephy, Katemalinga, Kalima, Chambuluka, Mkwana, Matchena, Misili, Dziwazina, Bello, Namula, Gomani, Ulemu, Sikelo, John, Namira,							
Activity Objectives & brief results:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To orient DSP on DAESS.• To orient DSP on their roles and responsibilities.• To institute a DSP committee complete with office bearers.									
Activity Outputs:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased understanding among DSP members of their roles and responsibilities.• New DSP committee established and office bearers elected.									
Benefits to DAESS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishment of a district level platform that will promote coordination among development platforms in the district.									
Progress towards SANE's indicators:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This activity contributed toward indicator 3.2.1 “Number of individuals who have received SANE - supported short term agricultural sector productivity or food security training”.									
Participant quote/s:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• N/A									

Annex 4: Summary of Learning Events

District	Name of ASP / Irrigation site	Participation (Farmers)			Key Lessons
		Male	Female	Total	
Blantyre	Somba – Kanyola, Nasundu	9	12	21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria for selecting plots on which to mount field research trials or demonstrations Procedures for conducting field experiments Group organization and importance of team work Taking field measurements
Lilongwe	Kalolo – Kamanzi	11	8	19	
Mangochi	Chowe- Ngalu	7	15	22	
Nsanje	Malemia – Nangali	5	6	10	
	Mbenje - Tiyanjane	6	4	10	
Ntcheu	Lower Makwangwala-Namang'ong'a	11	18	28	
TOTAL		49	63	110	

Annex 5: Success Stories

On the Frontline

How district-level institutional innovation builds front-line extension agent's capacity to **serve farming communities.**



Standing a few hundred meters from the banks of the Shire river on a warm June morning, Lingiston Mafunga is animated as he talks about how much he has benefited from being a member of the Biti Village Agriculture Committee in his area, in Dichi Village, Traditional Authority Tenganani in Nsanje. We are standing in Lingiston's maize field, which is growing at slightly above the ankles. Lingiston, a Lead Farmer, is cultivating using irrigation farming

"The Village Agriculture Committee has helped me and other farmers to get extension services whenever we need them. There are a few

extension workers here, but Lead Farmers are assisting extension workers to share extension messages and provide guidance on good agricultural practices to fellow farmers", he says.

Lead Farmers is an extension methodology promoted by the Ministry of Agriculture to encourage information sharing and peer learning. "Before, we would just wait for the extension workers to come to us, and this was problematic because there are not enough extension workers in the district for all of us farmers", he says.

The Lead Farmers are those farmers who are exemplary in their farming, and are then mentored by Extension Workers to help in providing extension services to their fellow farmers in the areas in which they are based. This helps to ensure that extension services are easily provided to more farmers, as there are not enough extension workers to reach all farmer.

"Since we Lead Farmers as role models and with VACs members encouraging farmers in their villages to utilize modern farming methods, there's a big difference in my yields compared to the previous years. Lead farmers were there but the support provided by VAC members is helping them to be more effective. Now, for example, we plant single maize seeds per planting station, whereas before we would just plant anyhow, sometimes as much as 5 to 10 maize seeds per planting station", adds Lingiston.

Using such modern planting methods, Lingiston has seen yield on his 0.1 ha go up to 8 bags of maize, where as before, the most he could harvest was 4 bags of maize. Furthermore, he now plants both maize and beans on his plot, something that he was not doing before.

Nsanje has several Village Agriculture Committees (VACs) such as Biti, the one Lingiston belongs to. The VACs organize farmers demands by helping them to identify the

priority agricultural needs that they can address themselves, or engage other service providers to help them address those needs.

Not far from Lingiston's maize field, I meet Fineas Valera and his wife Joyce, who I find thinning their maize field, and are members of Chikhawo VAC. Like Lingiston, Fineas and his wife speak highly of the benefits that they are enjoying as farmers who belong to the Chikhawo Village Agriculture Committee, through which they receive agricultural extension services. "We are grateful for the availability of Extension Workers and the Lead Farmers who they work with to reach us, and share helpful information to help us in our farming", he says.

Using the knowledge he accesses from the Extension Workers and Lead Farmers in their area, Fineas and Joyce have seen the yield on their 0.1 ha garden go up year-on-year, from about 3 bags in 2016, to 6-and-a-half bags of maize in 2018. This year, in 2019, the couple is expecting an even bigger yield from their irrigation farming.

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Using the knowledge he accesses from the Extension Workers and Lead Farmers in their area, Fineas and Joyce have seen the yield on their 0.1 ha garden go up year-on-year, from about 3 bags in 2016, to 6-and-a-half bags of maize in 2018. This year, in 2019, the couple is expecting an even bigger yield from their irrigation farming.

Farmers get more than extension messages through the VACs. "Recently, we have had fall army worm attacks in the fields, and each time we have been able to reach out to extension workers to help us. And they have come out to inspect our fields, and also ensured we get pesticides from the DADO's office for free. We are still using some of these pesticides even now", adds Fineas.

Village Agriculture Committees like Biti and Chikhawo, and many others are under the Tengani Area Stakeholder Panel. The representatives from the various Area Stakeholder Panels in the district, such as Tengani, form the District Stakeholder Panel (DSP) that includes representatives from the District Agricultural Extension Coordinating Committee (DAECC). The platforms (VACs, ASPs, the DSP and DAECC) together form the District Agricultural Extension Service System (DAESS).

The DAESS is a decentralized extension framework meant to enable farmers and stakeholders to engage in a participatory process of identifying and organizing agricultural issues of common interest for collective action to be undertaken by farmers and/or stakeholders, and

also for holding each other accountable.

Nsanje's District Development Officer (DADO), James Banda, whose office serves as secretariat to the DAESS platforms, is proud to see that engaging with farmers in the district is bearing fruits. "DAESS is a very important extension system, it helps us to get feedback from the farming community, and vice-versa. It also helps in bringing together all the stakeholders for the implementation of various activities, and is instrumental in interpreting government policy for grassroots implementation, thus coordination works", he says.

Banda also commends other partners like Strengthening Agriculture and Nutrition Extension (SANE) who, through their collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture's Department of Extension Services, build the capacity of the DAESS platforms to improve their functionality. "SANE has been helping the district revamp the DAESS platforms through capacity building of the lower platforms, especially VACs and ASPs", he adds.

Strengthening Agricultural and Nutrition Extension (SANE) is a 5-year (2015-2020) Activity funded by USAID. SANE works in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture's Department of Agriculture Extension Services (DAES), to mobilize service providers to deliver agricultural and nutrition extension in a coordinated manner through the DAESS platforms in 10 districts of Mchinji, Lilongwe, Dedza, Ntcheu, Machinga, Balaka, Mangochi, Blantyre, Chikwawa, and Nsanje.

Among the interventions, SANE trained Village Agriculture Committees and Area Stakeholder Panels in the districts on the Standard Operating Procedures for establishing such platforms, conducting effective meetings, and also engaging stakeholders.

To farmers such as Lingiston Mafunga and Fineas and Joyce Valera, interaction in the DAESS platforms has benefitted them through increased access to extension services from diverse service providers who participate in the platform meeting.

"DAESS is a very important extension system, it helps us to get feedback from the farming community, and vice-versa. It also helps in bringing together all the stakeholders for the implementation of various activities, and is instrumental in interpreting government policy for grassroots implementation, thus coordination works."

— James Banda
Nsanje District Agricultural Development Officer

All Hands on Deck

How the Chikwawa DAECC collaborated to address Fall Armyworm Infestations

It's December 2016 in Chikwawa District in Southern Malawi. The season's planting rains have just fallen in most areas of the district and farmers are busy attending to their farms, getting ready for the season ahead.

For Lewis Lipenga, a Crops Officer at the District Agriculture Office, this is a busy season too. As he leaves home for work one morning, he is mentally going through his work schedule for the week he has lined up a series of farmer trainings and field visits to several farmer groups aimed at helping them better prepare for the season.

Upon reaching his office however, he is surprised to see several farmers, including some from the groups he had planned to visit later in the day, waiting for him in the lobby. Immediately he realizes something is not in place. Something must be terribly wrong to force these farmers travel all the way from their villages to his office this early in the day.

Apparently, the farmers have come to report about a pest that has just appeared from nowhere but is destroying their newly germinated crops. "We are in big trouble". They tell him. "There is a new pest that is attacking our crops.

We have tried to control it with pesticides and some herbs we know but they are not working. We don't know what to do. We need your help."

Upon listening to the farmers, Lipenga begins to suspect that the pest the farmers are talking about is most probably the dreaded Fall Armyworm. He had read recently that the pest had hit some places in the country. The news from the farmers may just be a confirmation of his worst fears. A trip to some of the farmers' gardens confirms that the new pest is indeed the Fall Armyworm.

Known to have originated from the Americas, the Fall armyworm is an invasive pest that surfaced in Southern Africa at the start of the 2016 growing season. While it is not clear how the pest migrated to these parts of Africa, it is very clear that the pest is very destructive and unless strategies are put in place to control it, livelihoods of many communities would be under serious threat.

"Looking at the severity of the problem, we called for an emergency meeting of the District Agriculture Coordinating Committee (DAECC) which is a platform of partners implementing agriculture activities in the district." Says Lewis. "The issue was discussed at

length and the committee suggested a number of strategies to curb the infestation. Key among these was the need to setting up a system for monitoring infestations and training of staff and farmers in effective control methods."

Immediately, after the meeting, partners sprang into action. Several organizations procured pheromone traps that were distributed to farmers. In total the district received over 1200 pheromone traps which was even more than enough for the entire district! Other organizations committed financial resources that supported trainings for over 84 members of staff and 102 farmers.

Informational materials were sourced from elsewhere or printed and distributed to farmers. Some Lead Farmers were selected to be community fall armyworm focal point persons, also known as Community FAW Forecasters, and were issued with phero-

mon traps to monitor the pest incidences.

This in effect enabled the district to set up a system that could monitor pest infestations and provide an opportunity for partners to respond in case of reported attacks. Collectively these actions put the hungry worms quiet in check. The threat caused by the fall armyworms never reached crisis proportions.

"When I look back at our situation in 2016, I am very grateful that we had a very functional DAECC then" says Lewis Lipenga. "If it were not for the proactiveness of partners in our DAECC, the problem would have had devastating consequences on people's livelihoods."

The Chikwawa DAECC presents a good example of how partners if better organized through a functional stakeholder platform can work together around a problem to find workable solutions.

